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As We're Going To Be!"

July 1991

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INSIDE

Wrestling

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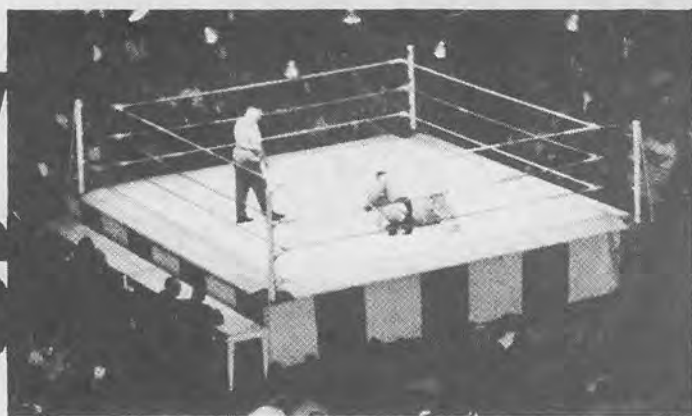
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Next issue on sale June 18

INSIDE WRESTLING (ISSN: 1047-9562) is published monthly by G.C. London Publishing Assoc. Inc., Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address notices to "Inside Wrestling," Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. Single copy price \$1.95 (\$2.75 in Canada, £1.75 in U.K.). Not responsible for the loss or nonreturn of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: Jim Messing, J.E. Publishers' Representative, 11150 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA, 90064, (1-800) 678-9321. U.S. & Canadian distribution by Kable News Company, 11 West 42nd St, New York, NY, 10036; International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY, 10010; U.K. distribution by Cornag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

SINCERELY YOURS



VALIANT VIRGIL

I can't believe you guys could think that Virgil actually did the wrong thing in breaking away from Ted DiBiase, as you implied in the article in the May 1991 issue ("Virgil Leaves Ted DiBiase: A Million-Dollar Mistake?"). In my eyes, Virgil has now established himself as a rising superstar. His countout victory over DiBiase at WrestleMania VII will go down as one of the great upsets of the year.

Roddy Piper is turning out to be the friend that Virgil has always needed. Virgil has made great strides as a wrestler, and that's because of Piper's guid-

ance and loyalty. Someday they'll be a great tag team.

DiBiase has hired Sensational Sherri to replace Virgil, but that wench will never do for the "Million-Dollar Man" all the things Virgil used to do. Together, Piper and Virgil will wipe out Sherri and DiBiase.

So *who* made the mistake?

SAL DARBY

Los Angeles

Virgil may think he's better off on his own, but so far he hasn't proven anything to me. First he had DiBiase do everything for him. Now he has

Piper calling all the shots. Why can't Virgil act for himself?

It's because Virgil doesn't have any talent, that's why.

NEDDIE CASS

Burlington, VT

PRIME TIME PANIC

I could stand the egg-citing Gobbledy-Gooker, snakes, parrots, Brother Love, "Texas Tornado," "Macho King," "Mr. Perfect," and even the former Mr. USA, Tony Atlas, strutting around the ring calling himself Saba Simba. But when the WWF introduced the new *Prime Time Wrestling* format, I reached for a bag to throw up in.

I can only long for the time when the WWF didn't have to rely on game shows, gimmicks, and The Bushwhackers' weather report.

SINDRE CHRISTOPHERSEN

Ringstabekk, Norway

HOW SOON WE FORGET

After Nikita Koloff's astonishing attack on Lex Luger at Wrestle War '91, Nikita said Lex stole the U.S. title from him four years ago. Then, Jim Ross said he was at ringside for that match, and he didn't notice any thievery.

Whoa, there! I also saw that match, and here's what happened: With referee Tommy Young snoozing, the "Russian Nightmare" hit Luger with a clothesline from the top rope. Nikita covered Lex for at least a 12-count. Luger's then-manager, J.J. Dillon, tossed a chair over the cage, and Luger



Reader Sal Darby thinks Roddy Piper is a great friend for Virgil, but correspondent Neddie Cass argues that Piper's presence proves Virgil still can't act on his own.



In 1987, Lex Luger won the U.S. title from Nikita Koloff after whacking him with a chair. In reader Harry Simon's view, that supports Nikita's claim that the title was stolen from him.

used it to whack Nikita in the back. Luger then applied a "torture rack" backbreaker and was awarded the title.

I'm a big Luger fan, and I was stunned by Koloff's actions. But as Jesse Ventura as said so often: You have to tell it like it is!

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas, NV

FLAIR'S THE FUTURE ...

Finally, in your May 1991 issue, your magazine gave credit to Ric Flair for being the great champion that he is ("Ric Flair's Seventh Title Reign: His Last Chance For Respect"). Perhaps now that he shares the all-time record, people will start to look at him for the legend he really is.

Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, and Sting are all good, but no one has ever been better than the "Nature Boy."

GEORGE THOMPSON
Hoboken, NJ

I don't understand why people don't like Ric Flair. He's a seven-time World champion. He's beaten just about everybody there is to beat in the WCW. He practically rebuilt The Four Horsemen. And he never refuses a challenge, even if the referee is 7'7" El Gigante.

Flair gave Sting about 200 title shots before Sting finally beat him. That's nothing for Sting to brag about, considering he was only able to keep the belt from Flair for six months.

Frankly, I think Flair is the future of the sport, not Sting or Lex Luger.

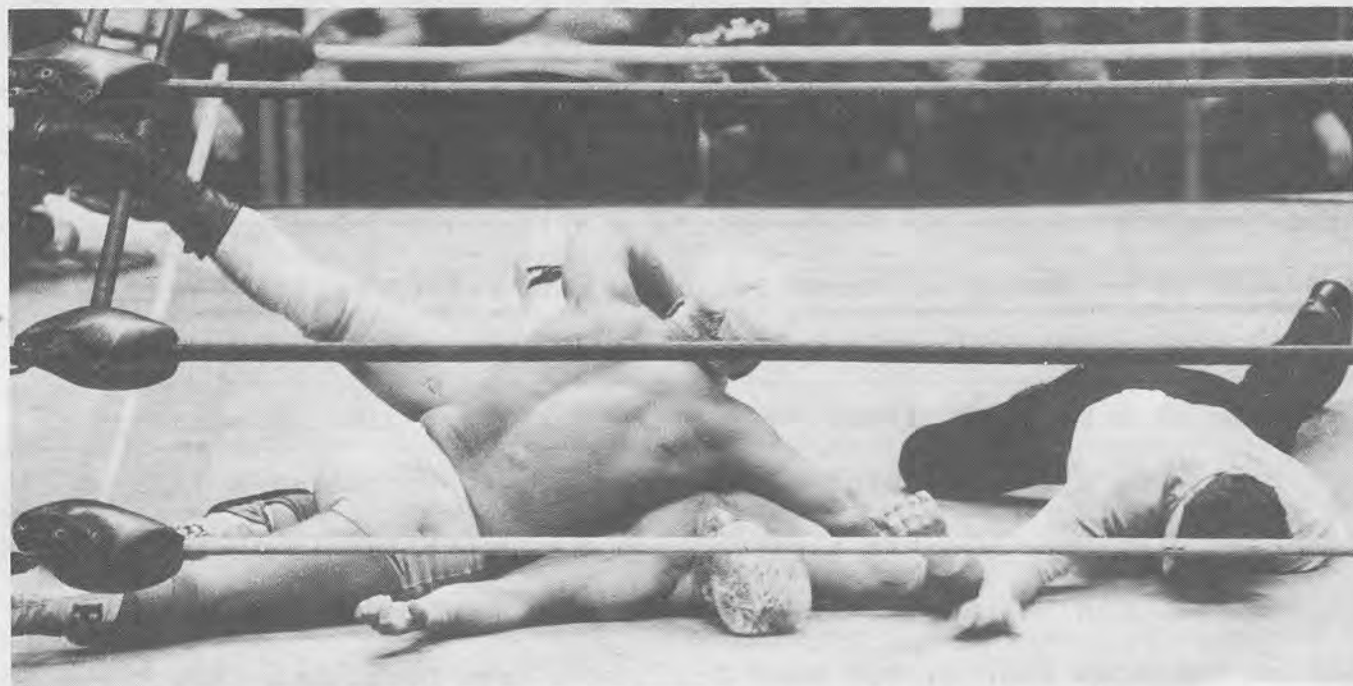
JEREMY SAMS
Asheville, NC

... OR IS STING?

It's just like Ric Flair to accept a tainted victory, isn't it?

When Flair "pinned" Sting at the Meadowlands on January 11, Sting's foot was clearly draped over the center rope. It's outrageous that this kind of shoddy pinfall was allowed to stand.

(Continued on page 52)



Ric Flair's WCW World title victory over Sting was tainted because Sting's foot was on the ropes, says reader Betty Wallace, who thinks Sting will soon have another belt.

SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

This country doesn't quite know how to deal with Japan, Japanese products, or Japanese people.

We can't live without their cars, their TVs, and their stereos, yet we cry because our economy suffers when we import more products than we export. Big American companies become bigger and wealthier by selling properties to the Japanese, yet we criticize the Japanese and accuse them of trying to buy our country. Recently, the American public has learned that there is a unique and exciting brand of wrestling in the "Land of the Rising Sun," yet, when we offered the Japanese a chance at one of our two most important titles (in exchange for a share of the profits generated by 64,000 fans), we found a loophole the size of the Pacific Ocean and snatched away the prize they had truly earned.

I must concur with my colleague Eddie Ellner in expressing my outrage over the WCW's decision to deny Tatsumi Fujinami the WCW World title he earned by defeating Ric Flair in Tokyo on March 21. While it is a fact that there were a couple of close calls in the match that could have led to disqualifications and kept the title in Flair's hands, the benefit of doubt should have gone in favor of the wrestler representing the country with whom we're trying to establish a lasting relationship, one that will greatly benefit fans on both sides of the ocean.

To put it simply, Fujinami was deprived the title because the Americans were afraid of what might happen to the sport if a Japanese (a Japanese, mind you, who has a preference for wrestling in Japan) held the World title. The WCW's decision is based on a selfish desire to keep the belt on American shores. Too many Americans have forgotten that the scope of a true world championship stretches beyond the shores of California and Maine.

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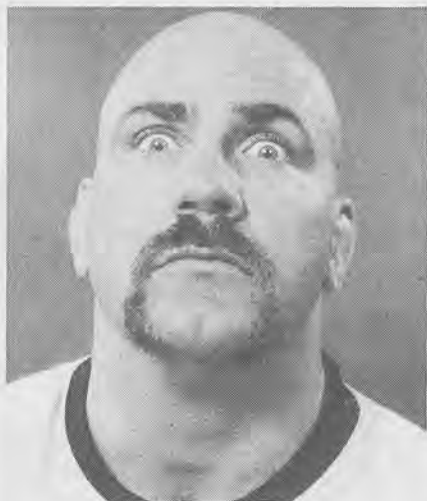
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NAMES MAKING

AFTER MORE THAN two years out of the wrestling mainstream, **Nikita Koloff** is back with a vengeance. The "Russian Nightmare" is claiming to be the new U.S. champion following his controversial match against **Lex Luger** on April 4 at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Koloff was granted the bout after attacking the "Total Package" during an



NIKITA KOLOFF

interview at Wrestle War '91 on February 24 in Phoenix, Arizona; Luger didn't forget the insult. Luger attacked his former friend before the opening bell and dominated the early part of the match with awesome displays of power, including a jarring series of bodyslams.

Sensing a quick defeat, Koloff grabbed the U.S. belt and prepared to hit Luger with it, but referee **Bill Alfonso** managed to grab the belt from Koloff. Moments later, Koloff, Luger, and Alfonso collided, with the arbiter being knocked unconscious.

Seeing the referee out cold, Koloff pulled his chain from the cornerpost and began beating Luger in the head with it. Koloff then tossed the chain

from the ring and covered Luger. A groggy Alfonso crawled over and made a two-count, but Koloff thought it was three and raised his arms in victory. Alfonso, who finally realized what had happened, then informed Koloff that he had been disqualified for using the chain.

Luger grabbed the chain and smashed Alfonso in the face before beating up Koloff and sending his challenger back to the dressing room, where the fight continued until security guards separated them. WCW officials strongly reprimanded Luger for his actions, but that wasn't the end of the postmatch controversy. Angered because he thought he'd earned a pinfall victory, Koloff destroyed the U.S. belt on television several days later!

"If I can't wear the U.S. belt, then nobody can," said a livid Koloff. "I pinned Luger. I should be the new champion. This is just another WCW ripoff, the same way they allowed



LEX LUGER

Luger's tainted victory over me in 1987 to stand. I demand justice!"

That's exactly what Koloff may get. At press time, WCW officials were contemplating bouts between Luger and Koloff during this year's Great American Bash tour.

"Let's do it!" said a still-angry Luger just days after the Meadowlands match. "That turncoat attacked me just to get a match against me, and now a man with his size and power uses a *chain*? I don't care *what* kind of matches they sign. I just want to get my hands on that creep again." It's clear the Luger-Koloff feud is going to burn up the summer months!

Speaking of feuds, I just can't believe the way former partners **Misty Blue Simmes** and **Heidi Lee Morgan** are now threatening to destroy each other. Morgan blames Simmes for their loss of the LPWA tag team title to

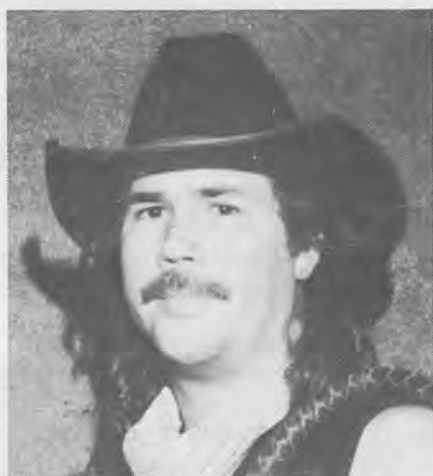


MORGAN & SIMMES

Judy Martin and **Lelani Kai** ... **The Ultimate Warrior** is lusting to get at **The Undertaker** in the WWF. Undertaker locked the Warrior in a coffin during a bizarre "Funeral Parlor" interview on March 26 in Las Vegas. Warrior was locked in the casket for several minutes, and now he wants Undertaker in a cage! ... "**Outlaw**" **Joel Deaton** is now feuding with his former tag team partner, Georgia All-

N' NEWS

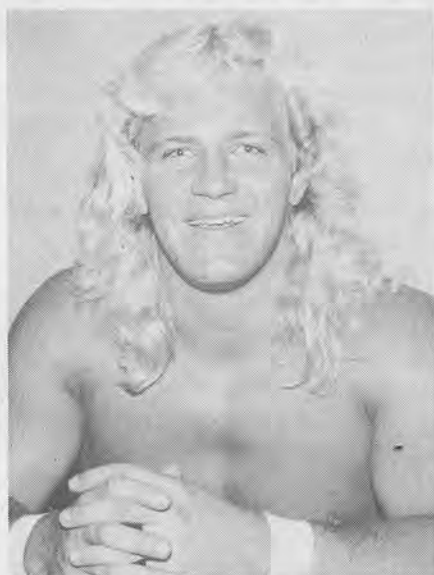
Bill Apter
reporting...



"OUTLAW" JOEL DEATON

Star champion **Steve "The Brawler" Lawler**. Can't anybody get along anymore?

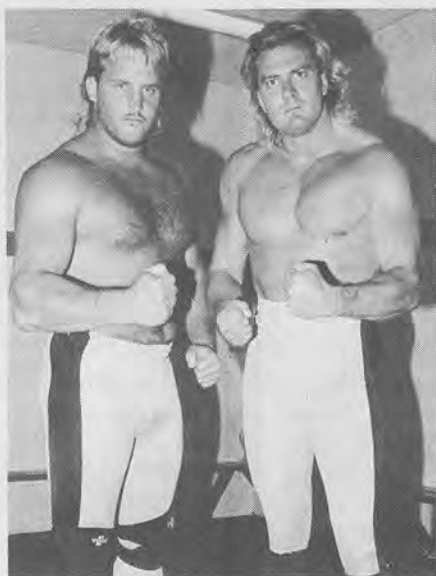
The Texas Hangmen—Killer and Psycho—defeated the previously unbeaten team of **Jerry Lawler** and **Jeff Jarrett** to win the USWA tag team title on March 26 in Louisville, Kentucky. The masked rulebreakers, who look nearly identical, pulled a fast one by switching in the ring illegally, which allowed a fresh Killer to pin a battle-weary Lawler by using his feet on the ropes for leverage.



JEFF JARRETT

"I can't rest for a minute after losing this kind of match," said Lawler, who has been contemplating taking an extended vacation—or perhaps a permanent retirement—from the mat wars. "I've taken a lot of heat for the way I won the USWA title from **Terry Funk**, but look at all the other garbage that goes on around here! Jeff is as angry as I am, and I can't take a breather until I get even."

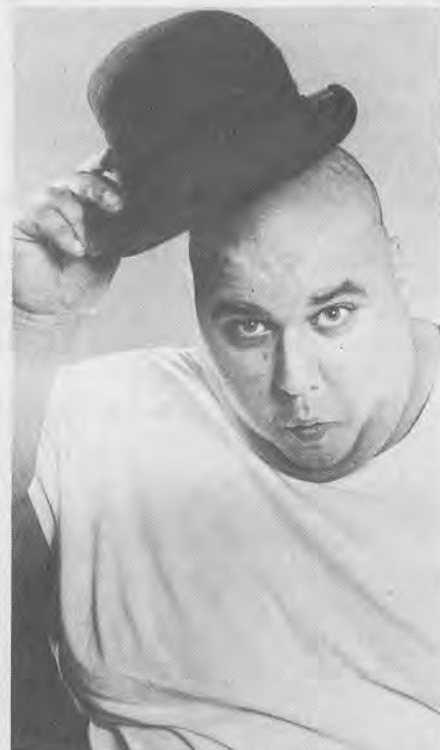
The sensational **Madison Brothers—G.Q. and T.D.**—captured the IWCCW tag team title from **The Equalizers** on March 9 in Staten Island, New York . . . Former AWA mainstays **The Destruction Crew, Jim Brunzell, Derrick Dukes, and Buck Zumhove** are competing for a new or-



THE DESTRUCTION CREW

ganization called Nu-Age Wrestling, which is based in New London, Wisconsin . . . Mexican star **Konan** has returned to the WWF.

A new organization, Universal Independent Wrestling, has been exciting fans in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. **Axl Rotten, King Kaluha, and Steve Valentino**



CURLY MOE

emerged as top contenders for the first UIW championship . . . Veteran **TNT** captured the WWC TV title from **Action Jackson** on March 30 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico . . . **Mike Rotundo** is now known as **Irwin R. Shyster**—or **I.R.S.**—in the WWF. And we thought **Michael Wall Street** was bad!

Rising star **Cactus Jack** was sensational during an early-Spring tour of Japan. The maniacal New Mexico native has also emerged as a top contender for the UWF TV title, which will be determined in an upcoming tournament . . . Former Intercontinental champion **The Honky Tonk Man** is on a whirlwind tour of independent federations throughout the U.S. . . . IWCCW star **Curly Moe** has a part as a bartender in the current Michael J. Fox film *The Hard Way*.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

I JUST FINISHED watching the Hulk Hogan-Sgt. Slaughter WrestleMania VII main event for about the 16th time. Go back to the videotape, watch it closely, and maybe you'll agree with what I saw:

Slaughter should have walked out of the ring in Los Angeles with the WWF belt around his waist.

Okay, maybe you won't agree. And in my heart, I don't either.

But you don't have to be uncommonly perceptive to see that Hogan shoved referee Dave Hebner about two seconds into the match. That calls for an automatic disqualification in any rulebook I've ever seen.

In fact, Hogan struck Hebner *four times* in the match (once accidentally), and, in fact, should have been disqualified at five different points in the contest. Should have, that is, except that Hebner is hardly a stickler when it comes to the rulebook.



Slaughter hurls Hogan into the ropes

But don't fret, Hulkamaniacs: If you're scoring the entire match on points, Hogan still came out ahead of Slaughter, who could have been disqualified 13 times (Gen. Adnan was responsible for four of those instances). Am I nitpicking? No, but public sentiment will clearly turn a blind eye to these observations. After all, Hogan was about a zillion-to-one favorite coming into the match. And the fact that he regained the title from Slaughter, perhaps the most hated man ever to wear a world title belt, disappointed nobody.

Still, videotape does not lie: Hogan hit Hebner twice in the opening seconds of the bout (once accidentally), and *should* have been disqualified.

For the record, there were 18 individual points in the match where either Hogan or Slaughter could have been disqualified had Hebner wanted to enforce the letter of the law (and I'm not even considering all the times closed fists and maneuvers off the ropes—both technically illegal—were used in the bout). Chronologically, they are:

1—Hogan shoves Hebner a few seconds into the bout (possible DQ on Hogan).

2—Hogan, while struggling with Slaughter, accidentally strikes Hebner (possible DQ on Hogan).

3 & 4—Slaughter refuses to follow Hebner's instructions and break a clinch on Hogan (possible DQ on Slaughter).

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

5—Hogan shoves Hebner (possible DQ on Hogan).

6—After the action spills out of the ring (more on countouts later!), Adnan hits Hogan (possible DQ on Slaughter for Adnan's interference).

7—Still outside the ring, Slaughter slams Hogan with a chair (possible DQ on Slaughter).

8—Hogan, back in the ring, hammers Adnan, who is standing on the ring apron (possible DQ on Hogan).

9—Hogan shoves Hebner, who is trying to halt the "Hulkster's" peppering of Slaughter's head with closed fists (possible DQ on Hogan).

10 & 11—Adnan grabs Hogan's foot twice (possible DQ on Slaughter for Adnan's interference).

12—Slaughter clotheslines Hogan over the top rope (possible DQ on Slaughter).

13 & 14—When the action spills out of the ring, Slaughter slams Hogan twice with a chair (possible DQ on Slaughter).

15—Slaughter chokes Hogan with a television camera cable (possible DQ on Slaughter).



The "Hulkster" takes a pounding

16—Adnan reaches into the ring to give Slaughter extra leverage while Slaughter has the Boston crab on Hogan (possible DQ on Slaughter for Adnan's interference).

17—Slaughter leaves the ring and hits Hogan, who is slumping in the ropes, with a chair (possible DQ on Slaughter).

18—Slaughter brings a foreign object—the flag and flagpole—into the ring (possible DQ on Slaughter).

Furthermore, there were two instances where Hebner *really* muffed his job. The action spilled out of the ring twice in the contest. The first time, both men were out of the ring for a 25-count; the second time for a 29-count! Where were the double-countout verdicts?

Yes, Hebner had a tough job. Yes, he was probably overwhelmed into inaction by the magnitude of the match he was officiating. But if you're going to have a rulebook, enforce it. If not, make every match a Texas death match and be done with it.

Or, The Bushwhackers' ill-conceived attempt at comedy aside, maybe it *is* time for the WWF to consider instant replay. □

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Actual questions

In which sport did Ken Patera win an Olympic medal?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1) Weightlifting | 3) Gymnastics |
| 2) Wrestling | 4) Boxing |

Who was Hulk Hogan's first WWF manager?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1) Fred Blassie | 3) Jimmy Hart |
| 2) Arnold Skaaland | 4) Elizabeth |

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Jake Roberts | 3) King Kong Bundy |
| 2) Hawk | 4) Buzz Sawyer |

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Kansas City Chiefs | 3) Cincinnati Bengals |
| 2) Los Angeles Rams | 4) Atlanta Falcons |

Gorilla Monsoon was originally billed as being from:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1) Manchuria | 3) New Jersey |
| 2) Croatia | 4) Montreal |

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

IT'S TIME FOR TV executives to put an end to the nonsense and rate the WWF PG-13.

During a recent *Superstars of Wrestling* broadcast, I watched as several children, who appeared to be no more than six or seven years old, watched with a mixture of horror and confusion as The Undertaker dropped dirt onto his fallen opponent.

The question is, are these young children ready to have death so graphically illustrated for them? Do parents want their children to learn lessons of life and death through wrestling?

"That is a difficult question," said Dr. Sidney M. Basil, the noted wrestling psychologist. "Society has picked up the pace in the rearing of its children and many pre-teens are exposed to things that they would not have known about until much later on if they were brought up in a different generation."

"Of course, it's still a question of what's right and what's wrong for each *individual* child and parent," Basil continued. "It's hard to make an overall judgment call, but I agree that watching The Undertaker or Brother Love or even that incident in which Sgt. Slaughter threw fire at Hulk Hogan may confuse a young child."

The Hogan-Slaughter incident, as seen on national TV, must have horrified young and impressionable "Hulkamaniacs."

"Something like that is taken very lightly, but it's very traumatic to see your heroes so devastated," Dr. Basil said. "I would not be surprised if many of these young children had nightmares because of what they saw."

The WWF had the right idea

(Continued on page 56)

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

FIRST THINGS FIRST, dear friends. I'm not in a very good mood this month. Just thought you should know that.

NEWS ITEM: HOGAN PINS SLAUGHTER FOR TITLE

Just as we were growing accustomed to Hulk Hogan, "artiste," as portrayed in his Right Guard commercials, we must now reacclimate ourselves to Hulk Hogan, "champion."

It's pretty obvious which one stinks.

Much will be made of Hogan becoming the WWF's first three-time World champion. Big deal. No matter how many title reigns Hogan manages in his career, his total time as champion will never surpass that of Bruno Sammartino, whose two stints as WWF kingpin spanned more than 11 years. Not that Bruno is doing so great himself: Those UWF telecasts on which he provides color commentary look as if they were produced by a junior high school film class.

(Regarding the UWF: The burning question six years ago was: How long will it take for Vince McMahon to poison pro wrestling? Today, as we've all become accustomed to WWF production standards and its carnival-barking



Eddie Ellner thinks Hulk Hogan should have had a much easier time winning the WWF World title from Sgt. Slaughter. He also thinks Hogan's three World title reigns don't compare with Bruno Sammartino's 11 years as champ.

mindset, the question has become: Can a non-McMahon-type wrestling federation survive more than six months?)

Before you pop open another champagne bottle for Hogan, remember that this time last year Sgt. Slaughter was squeezing his pimples in AWA semifinal matches, pro wrestling's now-deceased equivalent to Double A baseball. Because of the war and Slaughter's illogical fling as an Iraqi sympathizer, this match stirred fan emotions like no other since Hogan battled The Iron Sheik. It is clear that a Hogan victory symbol-

izes dominance in a way that a win by no other wrestler ever could.

Simply, though, it was a match Hogan should have won much easier. That he struggled confirms to me he is a better statesman than a grappler. But as long as the fans pay to see him, do you think McMahon or his accountant cares?

NEWS ITEM: STEINERS TRIUMPH IN JAPAN; FLAIR EXPOSED AGAIN

American wrestlers thrill Japanese audiences with their styles

(Continued on page 58)

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



With Elizabeth back at his side, Randy Savage scolds Sensational Sherri for deserting him. Liz Hunter is both grateful for—and fearful of—the Savage-Elizabeth reunion.

NO, THAT WAS not me you saw in the front row at WrestleMania VII crying my eyes out at the sight of Randy Savage and Elizabeth getting together again. But the reunion of the “Macho King” and his former manager did bring a lump to my throat.

And a sense of fear to my heart.

Because while the cheers rocked the L.A. Sports Arena, while Elizabeth sent Sensational Sherri scurrying from the ring, while Randy and Elizabeth glared at each other for what seemed like hours, and while they finally

embraced and left the building together, I worried. After all, it wasn't that long ago that Savage was manhandling Elizabeth for all to see—and be horrified by.

Do leopards really change their spots so quickly?

The history of the Savage-Elizabeth relationship has been nothing if not stormy.

Savage stunned the WWF in late 1985 by dismissing the collective offers of every established manager in the federation and taking on Elizabeth to guide his career. Elizabeth was monumentally successful for the rulebreak-

ing “Macho Man.” She secured title shots, negotiated contracts, and organized bookings. She guided Savage to the Intercontinental title.

But while she did so much for her man, she remained in a subservient role. She came to the ring several steps behind Savage. She had to hold the ropes for him. If she strayed from her man's corner at all during the match, a damning glare would be her reward. Physical punishment always seemed but a blink of the eye away.

(Continued on page 60)



H O T L I N E

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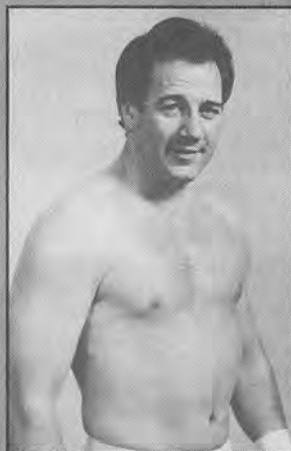
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



GREG GAGNE

This two-time former AWA World tag team champion (with Jim Brunzell) hasn't competed since his retirement in 1989, but that doesn't mean he hasn't been busy. In addition to hosting *AWA All-Star Wrestling* retrospective

shows, Gagne has been hard at work formulating a plan for the future of the AWA. "We haven't thrown in the towel," said the popular Gagne. "The AWA still has some big surprises in store for everyone."



THE GREAT GOLIATH

This athletically gifted rulebreaker teamed with fellow Mexican star Black Gordman to form a despised rule-breaking tag team combination during the late-'60s and early-'70s. Goliath still wrestles occasionally, but

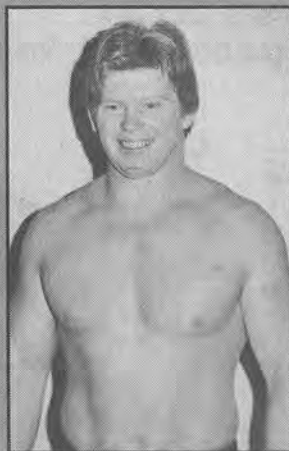
spends the majority of his time teaching young grapplers the rudiments of the sport at his wrestling school in Los Angeles. "I teach my students never to take any guff from anybody," said the always-surly Goliath.



LES THORNTON

This former NWA and WWF World junior heavyweight champion was known as "The Man Of 1,000 Holds" because of his scientific skill, but today fans are seeing a vastly different Thornton. The British battler has ended his retire-

ment to team with vicious "Bulldog" Bob Brown in the CNWA in Canada. "I get a kick out of beating up blokes such as Mega Mask," said Thornton with sadistic glee. "These young punks can't keep up with me."



BOB BACKLUND

Fans who have longed to see the legendary former WWF World champion back in action may soon get their chance. "I've been negotiating with several independent organizations, including the UWF," said Backlund, who has

been out of the mainstream for more than five years. "I'm starting to get that competitive itch again." Backlund stays in top shape by continuing his wrestling coaching career at Rocky Hill High School in Connecticut.

INSIDE WRESTLING

180

CAPSULE PROFILE

"BEAUTIFUL" BOBBY EATON is one of the sport's greatest high-flying wrestlers (*"It's a skill I worked hard to develop and I'm proud of it"*) ... Got into wrestling by putting up rings for promoter Nick Gulas ... Turned pro in 1976 ... Enjoyed his early fame in the Mid-Southern (now USWA) area, where he captured the Mid-America and Mid-Southern titles ... Managed by Jimmy Hart for much of his time in Mid-Southern (*"Jimmy was helpful, but he could be a pain in the butt, too"*) ... Jim Cornette persuaded him to team with Dennis Condrey in The Midnight Express in 1983 (*"That was the start of the legend"*) ... Team won the Mid-South tag title in 1984 and the World Class belts in '85 ... Shortly after losing the World Class title to The Fantastics, the Midnights moved to the NWA, now known as WCW (*"Where we knew we'd really shine"*) ... Captured the World tag team title from The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Atlanta on February 2, 1986 ... Their reign was ended by the Rock 'n' Rolls in Philadelphia on August 8, 1986 ... Was left without a partner when Condrey was fired at the request of Cornette's mother (*"It was a scary time, 'cause I had no idea where my career*

BOBBY EATON

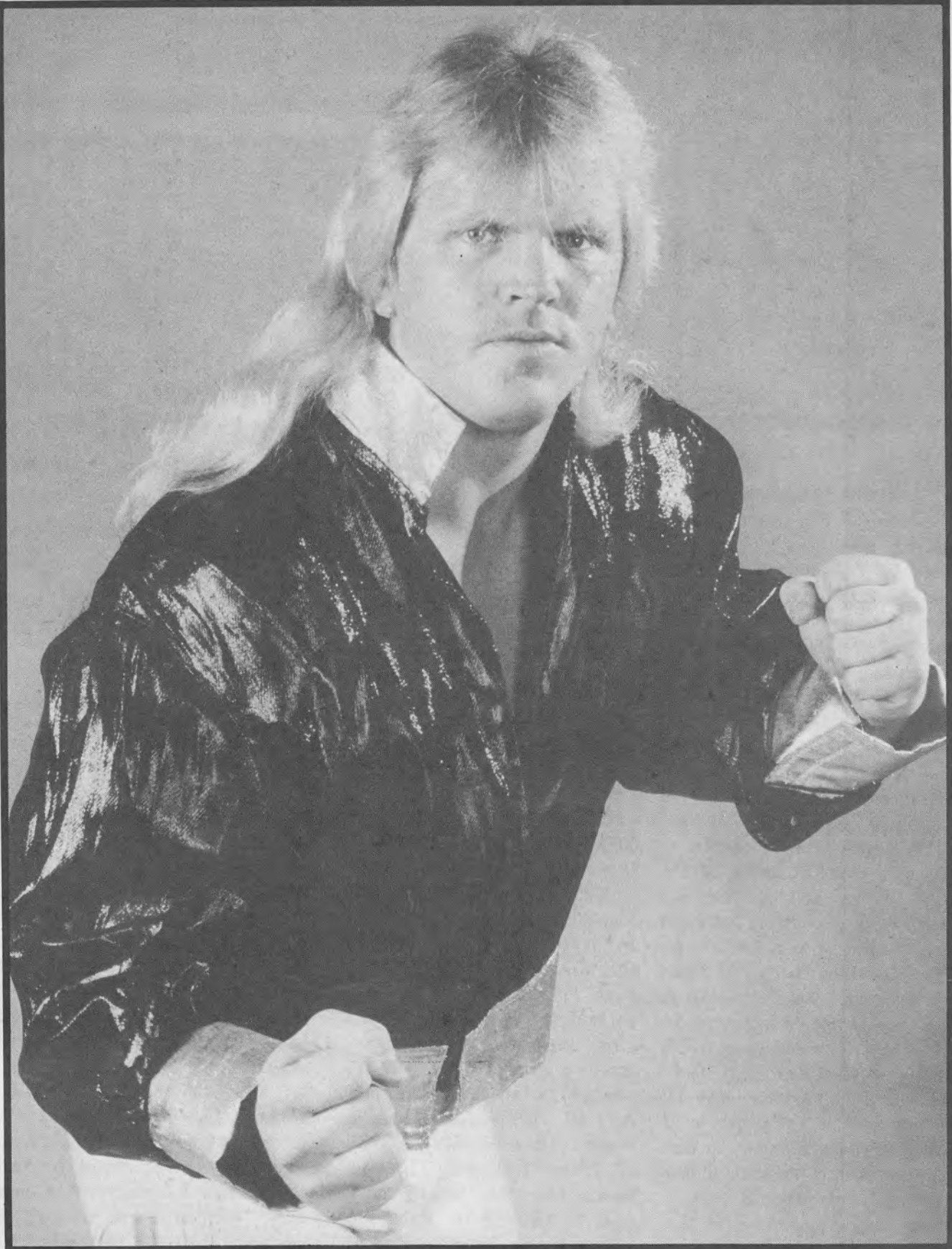


After The Midnight Express split up, Bobby Eaton (vs. Freebird Jim Garvin) decided to embark on a solo career. His current goal is the WCW TV title.

was headed") ... Cornette, though, quickly found a replacement in Stan Lane (*"Pure genius on Jimmy's part"*) ... Eaton and Lane won the U.S. tag team title by defeating Barry Windham and Ronnie Garvin in a tournament final in Atlanta on May 16, 1987 ... Voted 1987 Tag Team of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (*"That award meant a lot to us, more than we admitted at the time"*) ... Lost the U.S. belts to The Fantastics on April 26, 1988, in Chattanooga, Tennessee ... Won the belts back on July 10, 1988, in Baltimore ... Exactly two months later, they became the first team to hold both the WCW World and U.S. tag titles simultaneously when they defeated Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the World belts

in Philadelphia (*"That may have been the greatest day of my career"*) ... After being forced to give up the U.S. title, they lost the World belts to The Road Warriors on October 29, 1988, in New Orleans ... Enjoyed another U.S. tag title reign in 1990 ... Late last year, Cornette and Lane left WCW in a contract dispute, leaving Eaton on his own (*"No hard feelings; they did what was right for them and so did I"*) ... After teaming briefly with The Freebirds, Eaton embarked on a solo career ... Recently became a fan favorite after turning against Terrence Taylor (*"I can't stomach him or Alexandra York!"*) ... Set to make a serious run at the WCW TV title held by Arn Anderson (*"I guarantee this is the year I'll win a major singles belt"*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



BOBBY EATON

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#1 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '88

THE PRICE FOR FREEDOM

The controversial Bash tour heats up as Ric Flair & Lex Luger go at it in Baltimore. Also Rhodes vs. Windham for U.S. title; triple cage "Tower of Doom" featuring Russian Assassin I, Ivan Koloff, Perez, Rotundo, & Sullivan vs. Road Warriors, Garvins & Williams; Fantastics vs. Midnight; Blanchard & Anderson vs. Nikita Koloff & Sting.

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#2 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '89

THE GLORY DAYS

NWA champ Ric Flair comes back from a broken neck to wrestle former champ Terry Funk, & U.S. champ Lex Luger battles Rick Steamboat. Also: Sting vs. Muta; War Games; a battle of wits turns to a battle of fists when Paul E. Dangerously rumbles with Jim Cornette; plus much more!

\$39.95/120 min./Turner

#3 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '90

NEW REVOLUTION

Sting, back in action in a wrestling revolution as the greatest stars from the NWA battle the new young aggressors! Sting in a great comeback against Ric Flair for the championship. Also: Doom vs. Rock 'n Roll Express, Mean Mark vs. Lex Luger, Southern Boys, etc.

\$39.95/125 min./Turner



#4 CAPITAL COMBAT '90

The NWA's greatest wrestlers converge in Washington D.C., for a Congress of Capital Combat! Sting vs. Robocop make a special appearance to watch six-time champ Ric Flair & Lex Luger in a steel cage for the Championship. Also: The Steiners vs. Doom; Fly'n Brian & Z-Man vs. Midnight Express, Rock 'n Roll's etc.

\$39.95@120min/Turner

#5 HALLOWEEN HAVOC '89

A brutal night of devilish destruction! Ric Flair wants to permanently settle the score against Terry Funk. Together with Flair's powerhouse partner, Sting, the two great heavyweight pros treat Funk & The Great Muta to some monstrous portions of punishment! Also: Lex Luger, The Road Warriors, The Samoan Swat Team, The Skyscrapers, The Freebirds and many more!

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#6 HALLOWEEN HAVOC '90

TERROR RULES THE RING

In a terrorizing bout, Sting defends his title against Sid Vicious. Ric Flair teams up with Arn Anderson to attempt to dethrone Doom for the World Tag Team title. Lex Luger & Stan Hansen pound each other for the U.S. Championship title. In a destructive match for the U.S. Tag Team title: Steiner Brothers vs. Nasty Boys!

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#7 STARRCADE '90

COLLISION COURSE new!!!

Sting vs. The Black Scorpion! Who will prove victorious in the first ever Tag Team Championship of the Universe, featuring Tag Teams from around the globe going to a face to face in a tournament of universal impact! Can Lex Luger hold on to the U.S. heavyweight belt when he battle Stan Hansen? Also: Doom vs. Ric Flair & Arn Anderson.

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#8 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 1 new!!!

Pro wrestling the way it was! Buddy "Nature boy" Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor in the 1961 classic bout. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez vs. Skull Murphy & Karl Von Hess. June Byers vs. Betty Hawkins. Dick the Bruiser vs. Pepper Gomez & more!

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#9 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 2 new!!!

Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James. Antonino Rocca vs. Johnny Valentine. Six-man Tag Team Match: The Fabulous Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricki Starr. Killer Kowalski vs. Edouard Carpentier & more!

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Buddy Rogers, Handsome Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice vs. Bobo Brazil, "Calypso Kid" Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas, Tolos Brothers vs. Bob Nador & Chet Wallick, Ed Carpentier vs. Skull Murphy, Yukon Eric vs. Fritz Von Erich, Bulldog Brower vs. Bearcat Wright & more!

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#11 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 4 new!!!

The Fabulous Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & Mighty Atlas, Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt, Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys, Bobo Brazil vs. Ski Hi Lee.

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NEWS FROM THE

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PORTLAND, ME By Adam Lamontagne



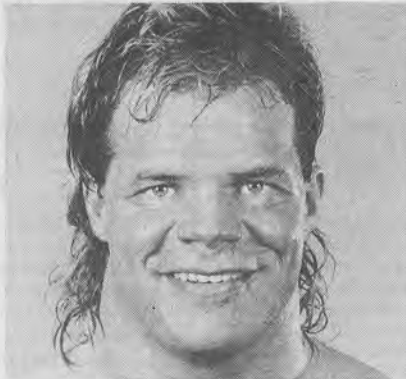
**EARTHQUAKE
vs.
JAKE ROBERTS**



After taking a thorough beating in this steel cage match, Roberts battled back with a flurry of punches, and even managed to give the huge Canadian a DDT. Earthquake fought back, only to be DDT'd again. Jimmy Hart ran in the cage to save Earthquake, but Roberts took his snake and chased Hart out to the arena floor; by touching the floor as he chased Hart, Roberts won the match.

OTHER BOUTS: Kerry Von Erich pinned Ted DiBiase ... The Barbarian pinned Koko B. Ware ... The Rockers beat The Orient Express ... Hacksaw Duggan defeated Gen. Adnan ... Jimmy Snuka beat Pete Doherty ... The Legion of Doom defeated The Nasty Boys ... Greg Valentine pinned Dino Bravo.

MILWAUKEE, WI By Peter Jasen



**LEX LUGER
vs.
STAN HANSEN**



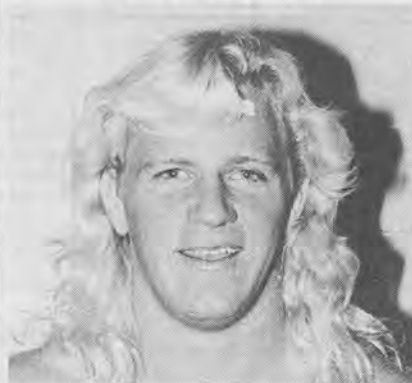
Hansen started taunting the ringside fans, and Luger ran out of the ring after him. Hansen then banged Luger's head into the announcers' table and rammed him into the ringpost. Back in the ring, they exchanged rights and lefts. Out of desperation, Hansen leveled the U.S. champion with a clothesline, then grabbed his bullrope and choked Luger mercilessly with it. That gave Luger the victory by disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Sting defeated WCW World champion Ric Flair by disqualification ... The Steiners beat The Freebirds ... Doom defeated Barry Windham & Terry Taylor ... Larry Zbyszko pinned Tommy Rich ... Tim Horner & Brian Pillman defeated Rob Morgan & Scott Sandlin ... Rick Morton beat Rip Rogers.

DALLAS, TX By Joyce Dillon



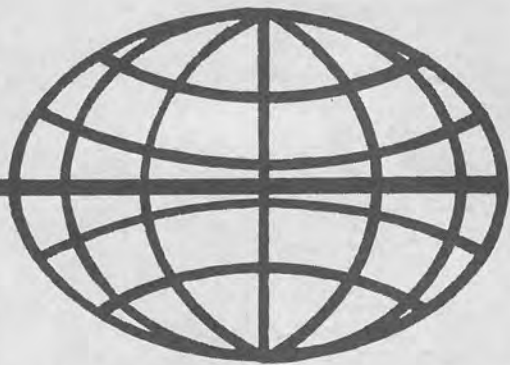
**TOM PRICHARD
vs.
JEFF JARRETT**



This match for Prichard's USWA Southern title featured two referees: Paul Neighbors and Tony Falk. Prichard and Jarrett fought so wildly that, during the action, *both* refs were knocked out! When it appeared as though Jarrett had Prichard beaten and would regain the title, Steve Austin interfered, allowing Prichard to cover Jarrett. Falk got back up and made the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: El Grande Pistolero drew with Billy Travis ... The Texas Hangmen defeated Dan Davis & Night Train Jackson ... Bill Dundee and Eric Embry were both disqualified ... Dan Davis pinned Dog of War ... Gary Young defeated Steve Austin ... Jeff Jarrett & Billy Travis beat Tojo Yamamoto & Tom Prichard.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



PORTLAND, OR By Kenn Jones



**RIP OLIVER
vs.
SCOTT NORTON**



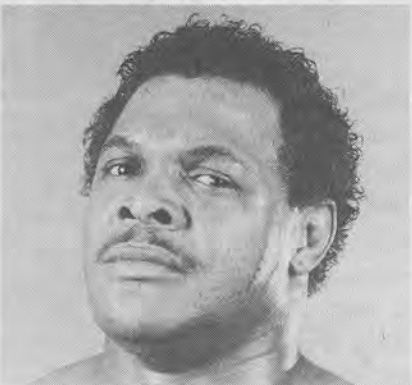
Norton, once one of PNW's most respected competitors, demonstrated clearly why fans are starting to hate him. When Oliver began to outwrestle him, he threw powder in Rip's eyes. Then, Norton went outside the ring, took a nightstick from one of the security guards, and started hitting Oliver with it. Referee Sandy Barr had no choice but to disqualify Norton.

OTHER BOUTS: Larry Oliver defeated Al Madril by disqualification ... Steve Sawyer pinned The Grappler ... C.W. Bergstrom pinned Doug Masters ... Mike Winner defeated Psycho Sam by disqualification.

WALDORF, MD By Ray Ney



**BARRY WINDHAM
vs.
BUTCH REED**



This street fight between Windham and Reed was proof there's animosity left over from the Horsemen-Doom feud. They tore at each other viciously, discarding wrestling in favor of pure brawling. Suddenly, Ron Simmons hit the ring and went after his former partner. As he and Reed left the ring and battled all over the building, the referee declared the match a no-contest.

OTHER BOUTS: Big Josh pinned El Cubano ... Dustin Rhodes & Tim Horner beat Larry Zbyszko & Dutch Mantel ... Rick Morton defeated Buddy Landell ... Sid Vicious pinned Tommy Rich ... U.S. champion Lex Luger beat Dan Spivey ... Sting defeated WCW World champion Ric Flair by disqualification ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Freebirds.

NEW YORK, NY By Joe Newmark



**MARTY JANNETTY
vs.
PAT TANAKA**



Usually, it's The Rockers against The Orient Express, but on this occasion they contested a singles bout. Jannetty and Tanaka are two of the WWF's smallest competitors, but they exhibited a fantastic display of scientific grappling and high-flying maneuvers. Jannetty showed superior stamina, and was able to outlast his foe and gain a solid pinfall victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Davey Boy Smith pinned Warlord ... The Mountie pinned Koko B. Ware ... The Undertaker pinned Tugboat ... The Hart Foundation defeated Dino Bravo & Earthquake ... Kato pinned Shawn Michaels ... The Barbarian pinned Jim Brunzell ... Kerry Von Erich pinned Ted DiBiase ... Hacksaw Duggan defeated Sgt. Slaughter by disqualification.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY: March 1, 1991. I walk into the offices of *Inside Wrestling* for the monthly meeting and Saks hands me an envelope. For a brief, stupid second, I think I'm getting a bonus. Wrong, Brock. "Have a nice trip," Saks says. "See you next fall," I'm look. It's two sets of plane tickets, one to Japan, one to Los Angeles, one for the combined WCW/New Japan card, the other for WrestleMania. "Pack for a week," Saks says again, as if I haven't been doing this for almost twice as long as that snot-nosed punk has been alive. By the way, last thing Saks says to me is that starting next month, Craig Peters, the new editor-in-chief, will be giving me my assignments. At least he sent me away with a smile on my face.

FRIDLEY, MN: First, though, a stop at Ropers Sports Bar for a Pro Wrestling America card. Brief stop. Very brief. Rick Havoc vs. Tony DeNucci. Ricky Rice vs. The Lightning Kid. Charlie (Chuck?) Norris and Diamond D vs. Terminator Riggs & The Golden Idol. Why am I here? Because for the next week, I'm going to see the flashiest, finest wrestling in the world and I want to remember exactly where wrestling's roots are. Right here, in Ropers Sports Bar. Out there, under the carnival tent. Over there, where those two guys are having a couple of drinks and really getting into the action. Wrestling is a sport to be lived, not merely watched.

TOKYO, JAPAN: The two biggest wrestling cards of the year so far are being held three days and one ocean apart. On the eastern shore of the Pacific Ocean, just three days from now, Hulk Hogan will battle Sgt. Slaughter for the WWF World title. Tonight, on a western shore of the Pacific in a big, ugly arena called the Tokyo Dome, WCW World champion Ric Flair is putting his belt on the line against Tatsumi Fujinami. It's a battle of two greats, and anybody who had the choice between seeing WrestleMania VII or this combined WCW/New Japan card would have been better off picking Japan. This is



TATSUMI FUJINAMI

wrestling history, and it's also great wrestling, even though the ending of the Flair-Fujinami match was controversial. Forget about it. What we're talking about here is making and keeping wrestling an *international* sport. The fans here loved this card and I'm absolutely positive the fans in America would eat it up in the same way. Now, this might not sound like ol' Matt Brock talking, and maybe I had too much sake and not enough tempura, but cards like these are the reason I got into this sport in the first place. Yeah, fell in love with it. My first love and my only love. Seeing Rick and Scott Steiner unseat

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

Hiro Hase and Kensuke Sasaki for the IWGP tag belts was something else. Action like this is what gets my blood racing. The WWF tries to put a cheap imitation of it in a fancy package and call it wrestling. It pains me to say this, but I'll take Japan.

LOS ANGELES, CA: Sunday, March 24, the Los Angeles Sports Arena. WrestleMania VII. Biggest day of the year for an American wrestling fan. Humbug! Seeing WrestleMania VII three days after the WCW/New Japan card is like kissing Marilyn Monroe one day and Shelly Winters the next. And I'm talking the Monroe who's wearing that slinky number from the scene in *Some Like It Hot* where she's trying to "cure" Tony Curtis. Any-

Ware pinned Steve Lombardi in the non-pay-per-view opener, and already I'm getting sleepy. Kerry Von Erich took 3:11 to pin Dino Bravo, and I'm snoring up a storm. Wake up, Brock! You have a job to do. Later, The Ultimate Warrior pins Randy Savage in a loser-must-retain match that steals the card. And who shows up but Elizabeth, gams and all! Finally, Hogan beats Slaughter for the title. But as we found out later, we all missed the real show, the one in which Slaughter threw fire in Hogan's face. Wonderful. That means we get Hogan-Slaughter all spring long. Get me out of here!

LAS VEGAS, NV: Two nights later, there's a WWF card in Vegas and I simply can't resist. Here are two things



RANDY SAVAGE VS. ULTIMATE WARRIOR

way, they were supposed to hold this card at the L.A. Coliseum, but with the war going on at the time, the WWF decided a few weeks earlier that security would be too difficult in a 100,000-seat arena. Fine. Hold it here. Save 84,000 people the agony of seeing this crap. Okay, maybe the card wasn't so bad, but after what I've just seen, only a Flair-Fujinami rematch would do. Koko B.

that go together: Vegas bright lights and WWF glitz. Instead of going to the card, though, I end up walking around town, taking in the sights and the people, realizing that the majority want what the WWF gives them, and only a few would have been turned on by the card in Japan. Let's face it, this is a country that devours pro football. Subtlety is not the American way. □



Virgil outboxed technical master Ted DiBiase in their WrestleMania showdown.



A straight right hand sends the "Million-Dollar Man" flying out of the ring.



Virgil

ON HIS OWN—AND RICHER FOR IT

When Virgil gave up Ted DiBiase's millions, he received something far more important: self-respect. Virgil is no longer DiBiase's paid slave. He's a man again, and that's a level of wealth the "Million-Dollar Man" has yet to attain!



Millions of fans were inspired by Virgil's decision to stand up to DiBiase, who had bossed him around and humiliated him for more than three years.

By Dave Rosenbaum

IT WAS EVERY employee's dream come true and every employer's nightmare. It was a victory for the working stiff over the rich boss, for

the peasant over the slumlord, for the servant over the served.

When WrestleMania VII was over, wrestling fans basked in Hulk Hogan's victory over Sgt. Slaughter and gossiped over Elizabeth's re-

turn to Randy Savage, but every cab driver, shoeshine boy, butler, maid, and chauffeur was talking—no, *gloating*—about Virgil's victory over Ted DiBiase.

Victory certainly could have been



When DiBiase attacked Roddy Piper, it was Sherri, not Virgil, who joined in (above). Virgil has a long way to go as a wrestler, but Kerry Von Erich will attest to his desire (below).

more complete if Virgil, the "Million-Dollar Man's" former bodyguard, had actually pinned DiBiase, his former boss. Perhaps Roddy Piper's outside interference on Virgil's behalf tainted the win; still, the "W" in the record books goes under Virgil's name.

After years of one indignity after another, Virgil has reason to be proud again!

How he had suffered! How his pride had been hurt! How Virgil had wondered if he was really still a man, not just a wretched animal! How DiBiase had treated him!

Virgil was hired as the "Million-Dollar Man's" bodyguard, but he was really his slave. Bodyguards are supposed to protect a man from harm; Virgil pined over DiBiase's every whimsical need.

For years he did his job, and more, without saying a word. The salary was enormous; DiBiase gave Virgil more money than he ever dreamed of making. But the price he had to pay was far too great.

Associating with a man like DiBi-



ase was bad enough for Virgil. When he was forced to bow to DiBiase's every need, when he massaged DiBiase's toes on national TV, when he was belittled and talked down to, that was too much to bear.

So, at the Royal Rumble, Virgil wrote his own walking papers. Their violent fallout will never be forgot-

ten by those who saw it, and certainly not by DiBiase or Virgil. It was independence day for Virgil, but still there were doubts.

Had he done the right thing? Had he overreacted?

Finally, during his highly anticipated match against DiBiase at WrestleMania, Virgil found all the

(Continued on page 62)

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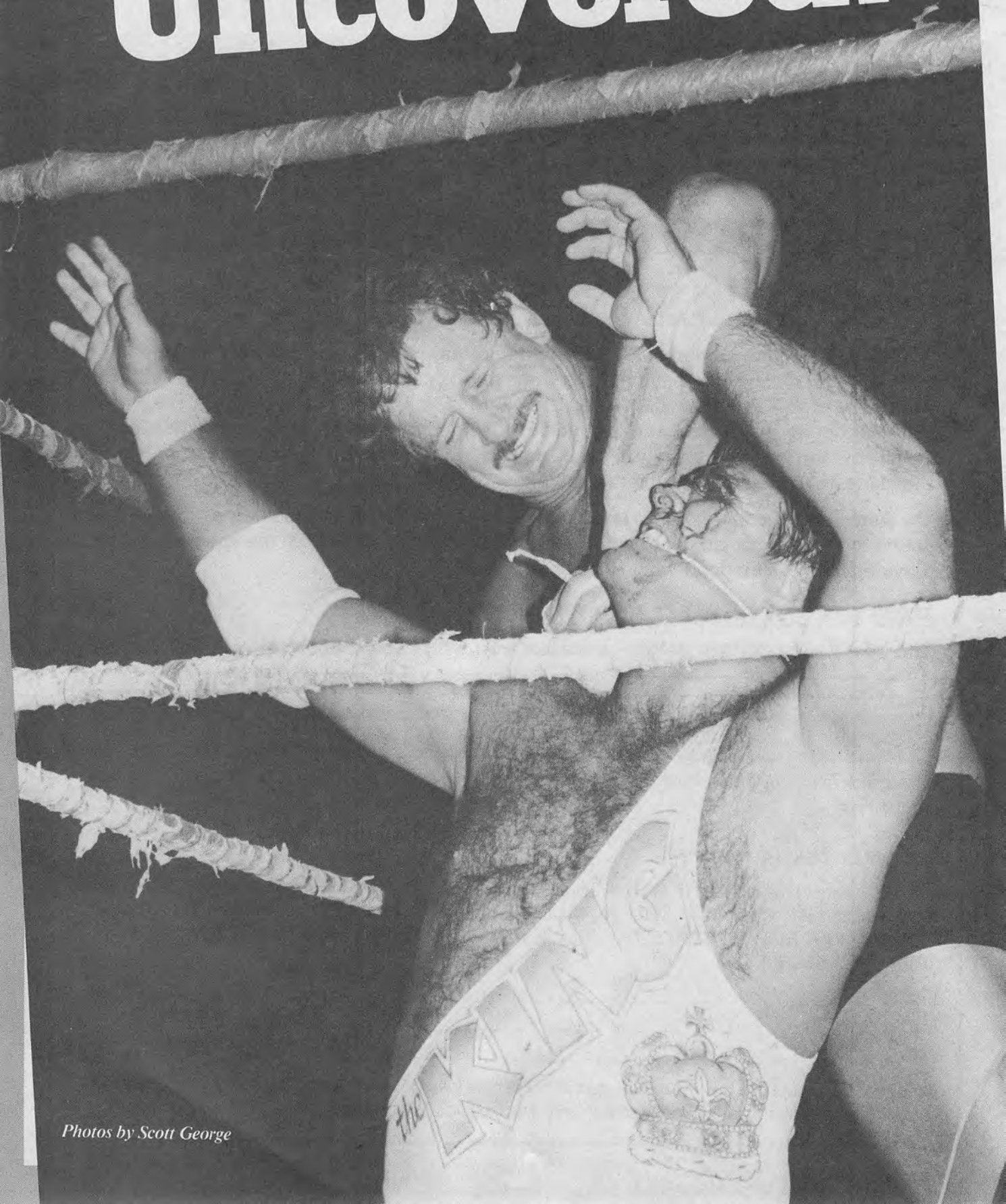
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Uncovered!



Photos by Scott George

THE USWA'S PLOT TO ELIMINATE TERRY FUNK!

In a shocking revelation, Terry Funk has claimed that Jerry Lawler's USWA title victory was the result of an elaborate, well-planned scheme. It seems USWA officials wanted to drive the maniacal Texan from the federation forever, but they still may not have gotten their wish!

By Bob Smith

WHEN TERRY FUNK gets angry, there's no way to avoid him, whether one is an opponent or a reporter. For one of the few times in his career, the maniacal Texan opened his sprawling Double-Cross Ranch in Amarillo, Texas, to a group of sportswriters.

"Folks, lay off that barbecue for a minute," yelled Funk as he sat behind a large picnic table, on top of which sat a large tape recorder, a videocassette machine, and a video monitor. "Geez, you writers eat like pigs. I didn't call you morons here today because I like you or anything like that. No, I have much more important things on my mind, and you folks better take heed."

The reporters stopped eating and gathered around the picnic table. At that point, the assembled media realized that Funk was serious in his intentions.

"I have in my possession documented proof that my loss of the USWA title to Jerry Lawler on March 11 in Memphis was the direct result of an insidious plot by USWA officials," said Funk, his voice lowered into an intense monotone.

With that, Funk leaned over and began playing a tape recorded phone conversation.

VOICE A: "There's no way you're walking out of the Mid-South Colise-



Though Terry Funk beat and bloodied Jerry Lawler severely (opposite page and above), he couldn't stop "The King" from winning the USWA title. Funk says he can and will prove that USWA officials conspired against him.

um with that belt intact, Funk. Lawler's beating you Monday, fella. After that, we want you out of here. We don't need your kind in the USWA."

FUNK: "Wait a minute. Who is this? What does all this mean?"

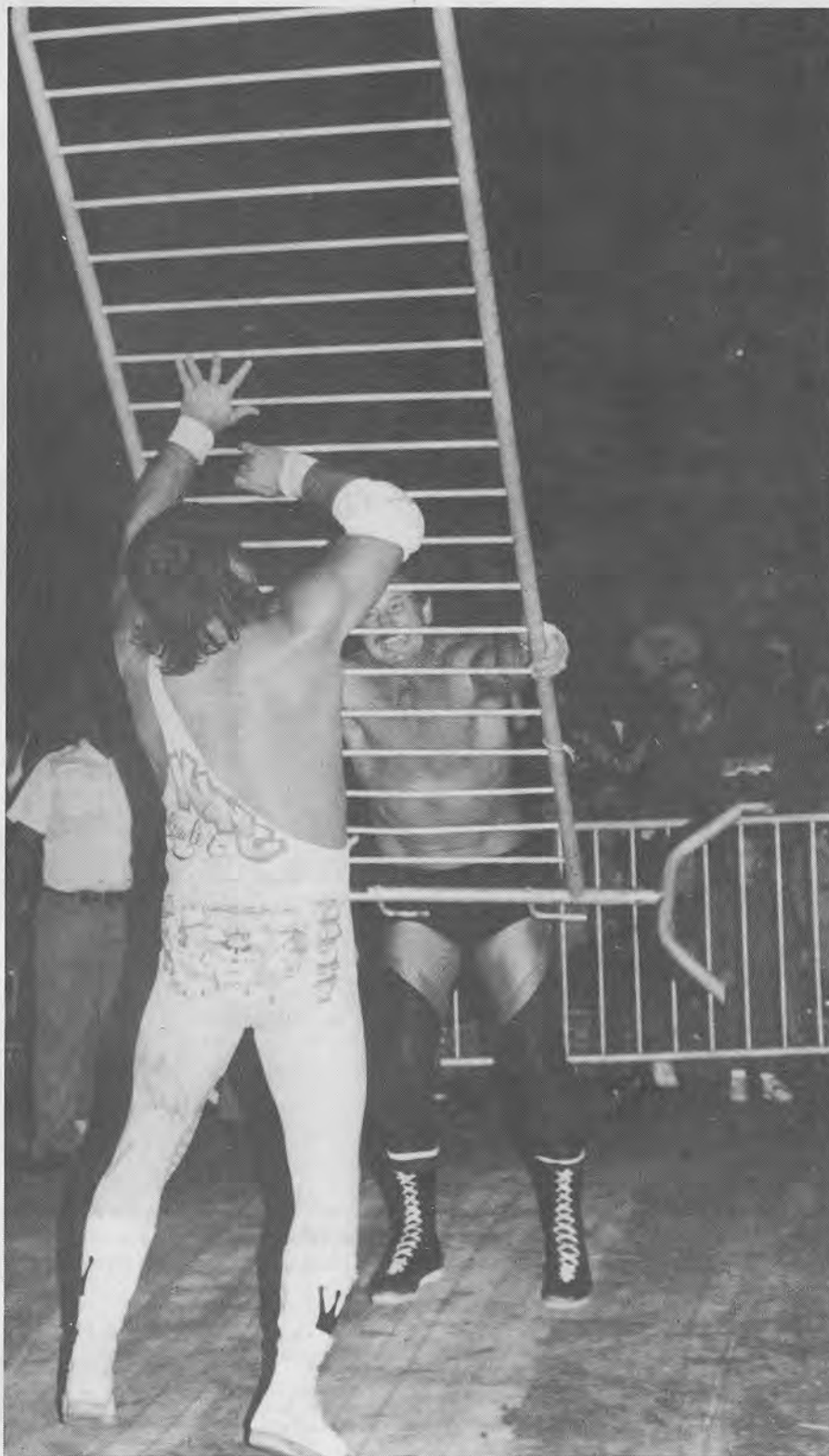
VOICE A: "You'll find out, Funk."

Funk switched off the tape recorder and stared at the reporters, measuring their responses. "Did you notice that other voice?" he asked. "That was [USWA matchmaker Ed-die] Marlin. That was *proof* the guy was setting me up. Those officials

had it in for me. There wasn't any way I could beat Lawler that night no matter *what* I did."

"What does that prove?" asked a reporter. "That *might've* been Marlin, but we don't know if it was or wasn't. You could've made that tape *after* you wrestled Lawler."

Funk's face grew red with exasperation. "Dispute it all you want, punk," he said, "but *this* is proof *nobody* can deny." Funk turned on the video recorder. On the screen appeared Lawler's title victory over Funk.



Funk bangs Lawler with the ring railing. For months, the wild Texan had been criticized for ignoring his USWA title responsibilities.

"Check out who that referee is," said Funk disgustedly. "That's Jackie Fargo, one of Lawler's closest friends. How could I get a fair match with that guy calling the match?"

Indeed, Fargo seemed to do everything he could to get under Funk's skin during the bout. The reporters

watched intently as Funk set up Lawler for a piledriver, only to have the attempt blocked by Fargo.

"What a crock," said Funk. "Just keep watching."

Three more times Funk tried to piledrive Lawler, but each time he was stopped in the attempt by Far-

go. Later, when Lawler piledrived Funk, Fargo was staring in another direction. When Lawler covered Funk for the pinfall, Fargo delivered a blindingly fast count.

"What? Was that a three-count?" asked a female reporter. Funk rewound the tape and played the count in slow-motion. Even at half-speed, Fargo's count seemed fast.

"What you've just seen is irrefutable proof that the USWA officials were trying to drive me out of the federation any way they could," said Funk. "This ripoff was so blatant that anyone can see it, even you dopes. That's why I've decided I'm going to take legal action to get my title back."

Funk's taped phone conversation was disputable, but the actions of Fargo in the title match surely weren't. In the weeks that followed the bout, Fargo was nowhere to be found. Marlin, however, was more than ready to take the heat for Fargo's actions when a reporter who had seen Funk's presentation questioned him.

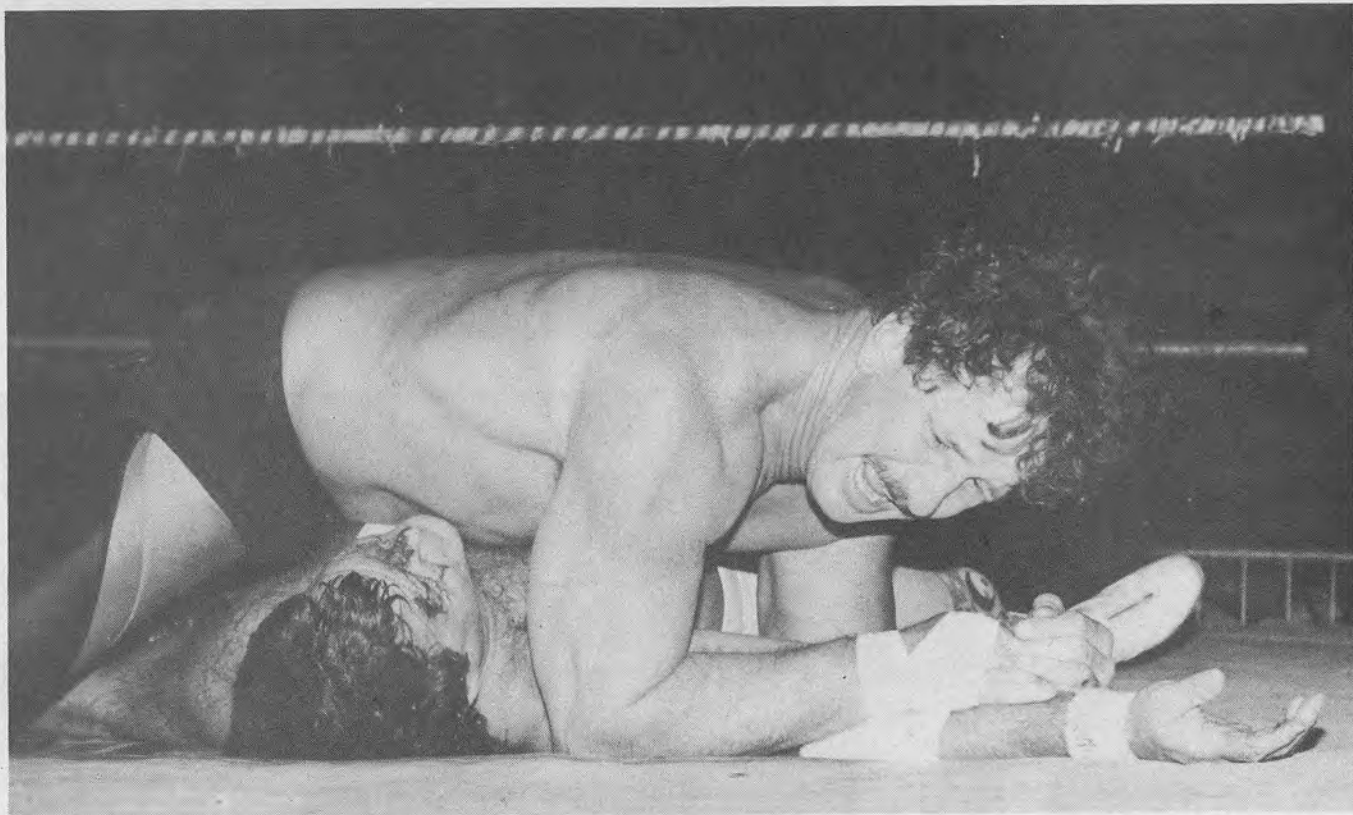
"Any talk of a plot is ridiculous," said Marlin sternly. "This is all coming from a man who ignored his USWA belt for four months. Why don't you ask him where he was all that time? Nobody here was involved in any kind of a scheme to rip Terry off. The actions of Jackie were his and his alone, and as a sanctioned referee his decision is final. That's all I'm going to say."

Marlin didn't answer the important questions, however. How could the USWA allow Lawler's victory to stand, even though he used a piledriver—which is illegal in Tennessee—to score the pinfall? How could they allow Fargo's fast count to stand? And why haven't USWA officials granted Funk a rematch?

"That's the worst part," said Funk. "They won't even let me in there to get my belt back! It's a scandal! A disgrace! An outrage!"

Lawler, however, dismisses Funk's charges outright.

"Desperate pleas by a desperate



Funk yells for referee Jackie Fargo to count the pin (above). Fargo was very fast on the count after Lawler piledrived Funk (left). Funk says he may take his gripe to court.



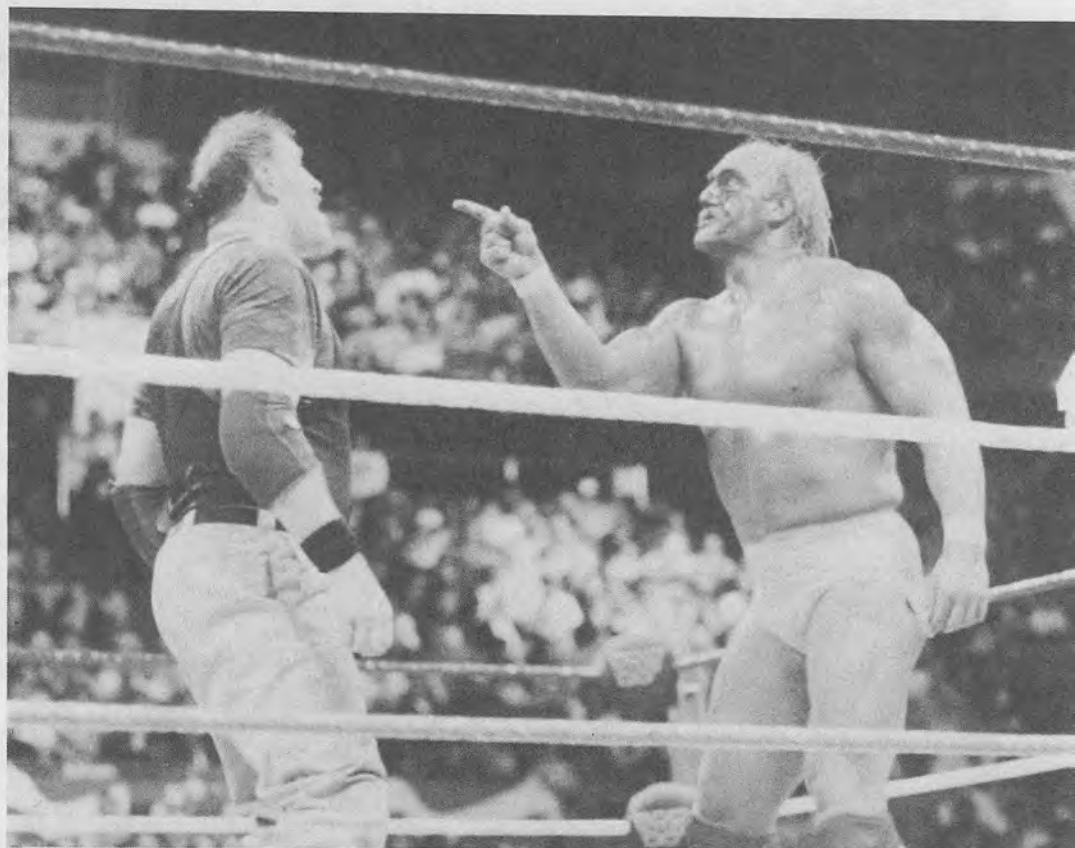
man," said Lawler, shrugging his shoulders. "Terry doesn't care about the title. He surely doesn't care about the fans. He just wants to raise a stink, which is all the ol' man is good for these days. Let him talk all he wants. All that matters is that I'm the USWA champ."

Lawler is wrong about one thing—Funk *does* care about the title. He's hired a team of attorneys, and he claims that victory in the courts will be sweeter than any victory he's ever scored in the ring.

"I got 'em all dead to rights," Funk threatened. "I'll prove 'em all—Marlin, Lawler, Fargo, [USWA President] Max Andrews—to be a bunch of liars and crooks. By the time I'm done, the USWA will be nothing but a faint memory, because I'm going to take away the organization's credibility forever!"

The USWA hasn't heard the end of this. Lawler has faced many stern battles during his 21-year career. Little does he realize his toughest test may come in a courtroom. □

BURAYNG MAD!



By Dave Rosenbaum

THERE WERE MORE than 15,000 fans watching at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. There were probably 50 times that many with the best seat in the house, watching at home on pay-per-view TV. They saw what they paid to see at WrestleMania VII—Hulk Hogan regaining the WWF World title—but they never saw what they never wanted to see.

Neither did Hulk Hogan.

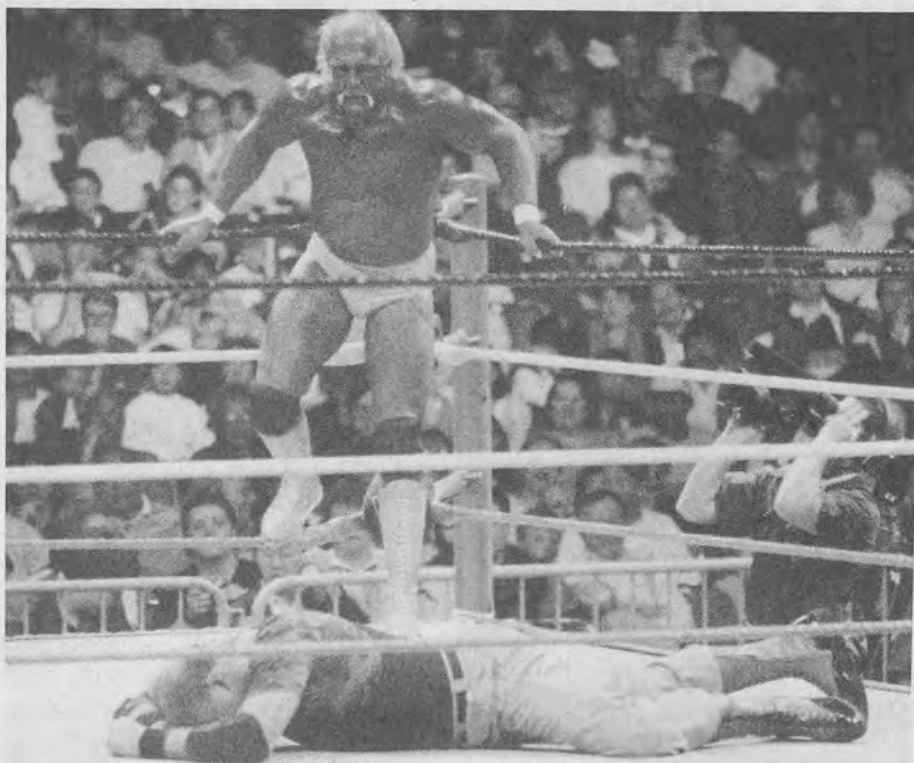
Drunk with euphoria following his victory over Sgt. Slaughter, elat-

ed by having won the WWF World title for an unprecedented third time, proud to have made his contribution to the war against Iraq, the "Hulkster" wasn't prepared for what happened when he opened the door to his dressing room.

Killer flame struck his face. It was thrown by Slaughter, the very man he had just dethroned, and the pain it caused to Hogan far outweighed the euphoria he was feeling. Writhing on the ground

Beating Slaughter For The Title

Was Not Enough



Hulk Hogan might have dominated and humiliated Sgt. Slaughter in the ring at WrestleMania VII (opposite page and left), but after the bout Slaughter had some *fire works* prepared.

clutching his eyes, with WWF announcer Gene Okerlund looking on in shock, Hogan suddenly knew this war was far from over.

Life imitates life. The United States thought the war with Iraq was over when Saddam Hussein pulled his troops out of Kuwait;

only now are we finding out that there are still battles to be fought.

Hogan was ready to go on to greater challenges when he pinned Slaughter at 20:26 of their main event on March 24 at the Sports Arena. He thought that the scourge of the Sarge had finally

been laid to rest.

But while Hogan was celebrating, Slaughter was scheming.

The "Hulkster" had already endured so many indignities at the hands of Slaughter: the anti-American baiting in the months before the match, the outside interference

Hulk Hogan regained the WWF World title from Sgt. Slaughter at WrestleMania VII, but who was really the winner? Slaughter wounded Hogan's pride, then he wounded Hogan's face. The war has only begun!



Slaughter's camel clutch (above) and Boston crab (below) gave Hogan fans some tense moments. Urged on by his "Hulkamaniacs," Hogan was able to regroup his strength and mount a furious rally.



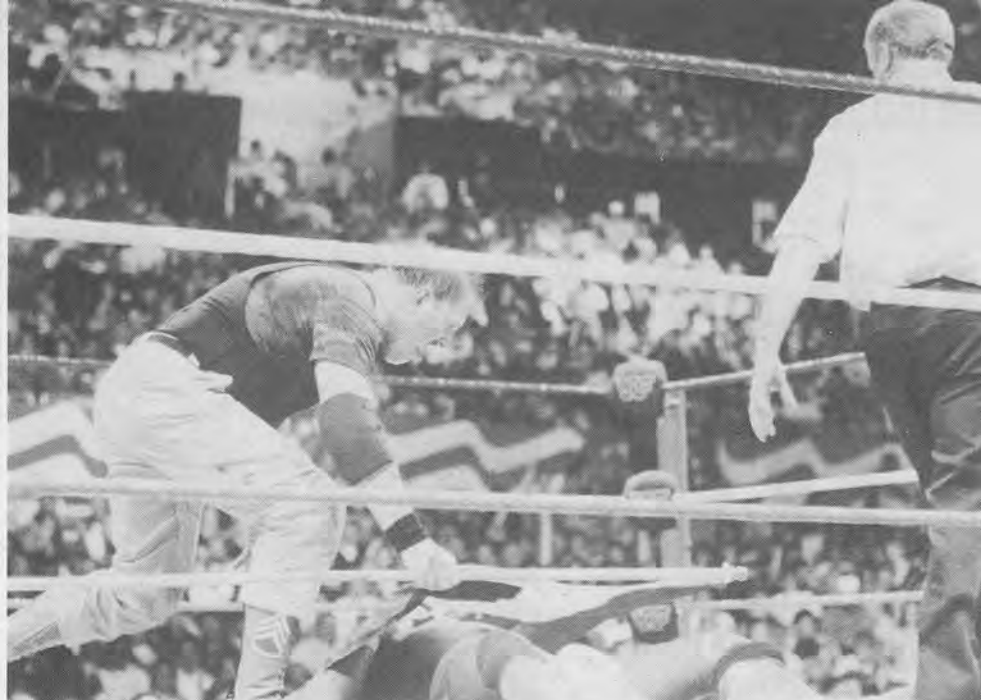
by Gen. Adnan, the symbolic burning of a poster of Hogan's face. And who will ever forget that moment during the WrestleMania VII match when Hogan, back to the mat and primed to be pinned, realized that Slaughter had draped the Iraqi flag over his prone body?

It was arguably one of the more incredible moments in wrestling history, and certainly one of the worst moments of Hogan's life. But it was also one of the best, as it provided Hogan with the rush of adrenaline that propelled him to his third World title.

Hogan went wild. He tore the flag in half and did virtually the same to Slaughter. Finally, a boot to the face and a legdrop was all Hogan needed to achieve the pin.

It was a comeback reminiscent of WrestleMania V, when Hogan was seemingly beaten by World champion Randy Savage. Remember Savage mounting the ropes with Hogan prone on the mat? Remember Savage coming down with a flying axhandle? Remember Savage connecting, but *still* not getting the pin? Remember Hogan regaining the WWF World title?

Great moments in WrestleMania history are virtually a Hogan highlight film. And as the crowd celebrated this latest great moment,



The "Hulkster" was justifiably enraged when the traitorous sergeant draped him with the Iraqi flag (above). After kicking out, Hulk ripped the flag in two.



The winning pinfall (above) set off a joyous celebration, featuring Old Glory (below). But for Hogan, the celebration would be short-lived.



Hogan soaked in the victory. Blood and sweat streaming down his face and body, the "Hulkster" posed for the crowd, thanked them for their support, and returned to his dressing room.

At that point, the *WrestleMania* broadcast on pay-per-view ended. The crowd headed for the exits, not knowing that a new chapter in the Hogan-Slaughter feud was being written, not knowing that as they laughed and howled and squealed their glee over Hogan's victory, Hogan himself was howling and squealing—in pain from the fury of Slaughter's sadistic fireball.

Hogan made a critical mistake at *WrestleMania VII*: He beat Slaughter, but he did not *destroy* him. Hogan, though the victor, clearly suffered more punishment in the match.

Slaughter merely lost; Hogan was embarrassed. Perhaps Hogan will have dreams of his victory, but he'll also have nightmares about the flag incident. For a patriot like Hogan, nothing could have been worse.

Hogan's victory was great, but the events leading up to it were impossible to bear, and the events immediately following it a horror beyond words.

And now Hogan must face Slaughter all over again. This time, however, he must take the time to ensure that his victory is 100 percent complete. He must do more than simply defeat Slaughter, he must embarrass and humiliate him.

Never in history has a man done to Hogan what Slaughter did at *WrestleMania VII*. Never before has Hogan had to pay such a great price for victory.

The war against injustice is never over. The war in the Middle East will rage for centuries more.

Likewise, Hogan vs. the ex-Marine-gone-bad still has many chapters yet to be written.

There's more to come—as if we haven't already had enough. □

MORE THAN JUST A TAG TEAM WRESTLER:

DANGEROUS

DAN SPIVEY

COMES OF AGE

By Bob Smith

DAN SPIVEY HAS spent the majority of his career listening to all the half-baked rumors, subtle jibes, and unfair characterizations.

For most of 1989, Spivey was the "other" Skyscraper alongside rising young superstars Sid Vicious and Mark Callous. Before that, he was best known to U.S. fans as Mike Rotundo's partner—and Barry Windham's *replacement*—in the reconstituted U.S. Express in the WWF.

Today, this eight-year veteran stands on his own. Spivey doesn't need an impressive partner by his side to prove his worth. Instead, the 6'8", 300-pound Tampa, Florida, native is making waves by showcasing his *own* abilities. The giant rulebreaker is doing more than winning his matches—he's becoming *feared*.

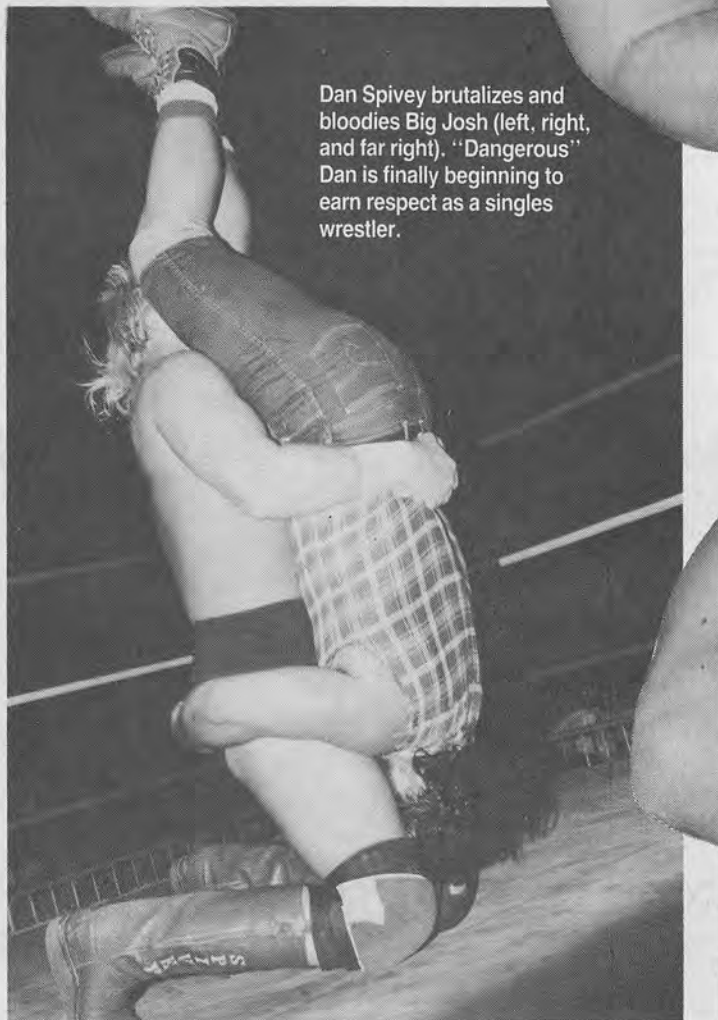
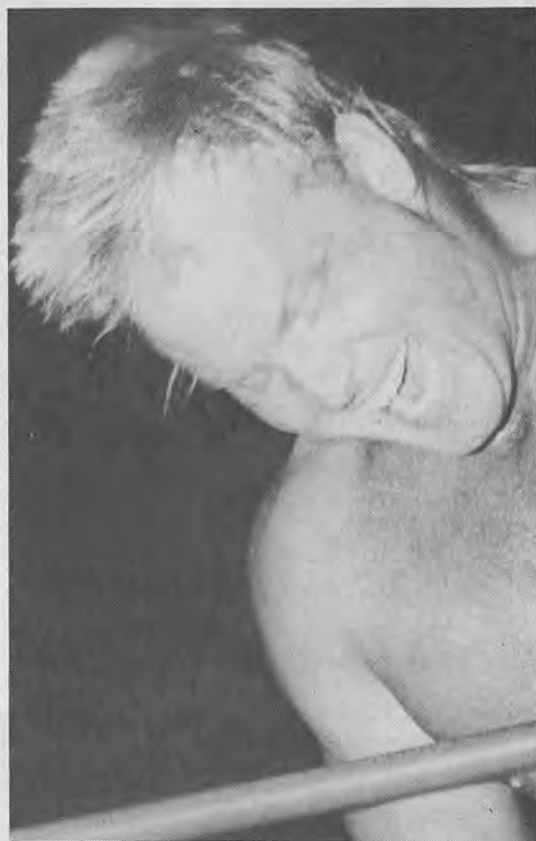
For years, many experts considered Dan Spivey to be a fine tag team wrestler who was largely incapable of making it on his own. But suddenly, "Dangerous" Dan has become a serious contender—and all it took was a dare to make it happen!

"I was wrong about the guy," said U.S. champion Lex Luger, who narrowly defeated Spivey in one of the most competitive bouts of the year at Wrestle War '91 on February 24 in Phoenix, Arizona. "I was one of those who considered Spivey nothing more than a brawler. Where did he learn all those moves?"

Luger's question can be answered in one word: Japan. Since 1988, Spivey has competed in the Orient between stints in U.S. federations. In Japan, Spivey is re-

garded as one of the most agile and talented big men in the sport.

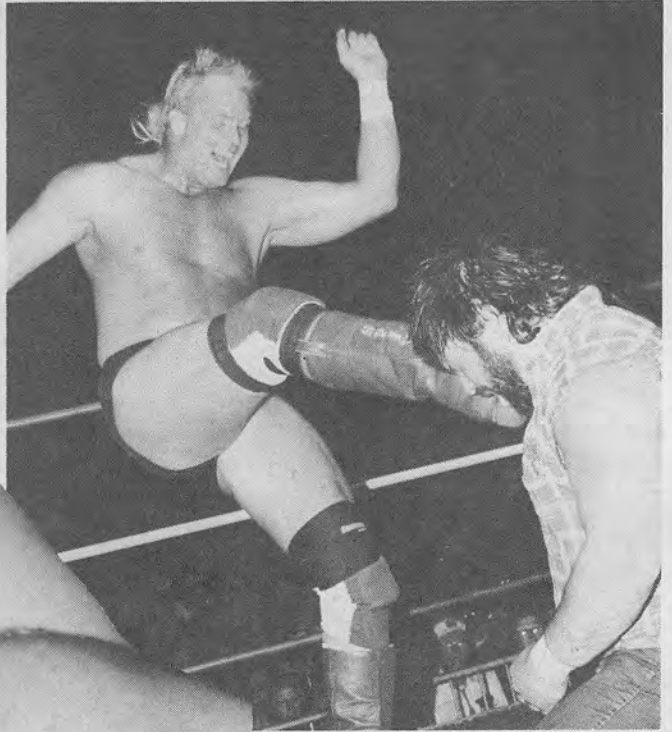
Upon returning to the U.S., however, Spivey usually went back to team wrestling. It's a part of the sport Spivey has long enjoyed, but he was starting to feel his individuality slipping away from him.



Dan Spivey brutalizes and bloodies Big Josh (left, right, and far right). "Dangerous" Dan is finally beginning to earn respect as a singles wrestler.

Photos by Ed Crawford

"I'll never put down the teams I've been in," said Spivey before defeating Brian Pillman in a recent match. "Sid and I are the best duo ever put together—I don't care what *anybody* says. We could've beaten The Road Warriors if those guys hadn't turned tail and run from us in fear. But at the same time, I was getting frustrated. I knew I was a great *solo* wrestler, but it was starting to look as if I was never going to get the chance to prove it in my own country."

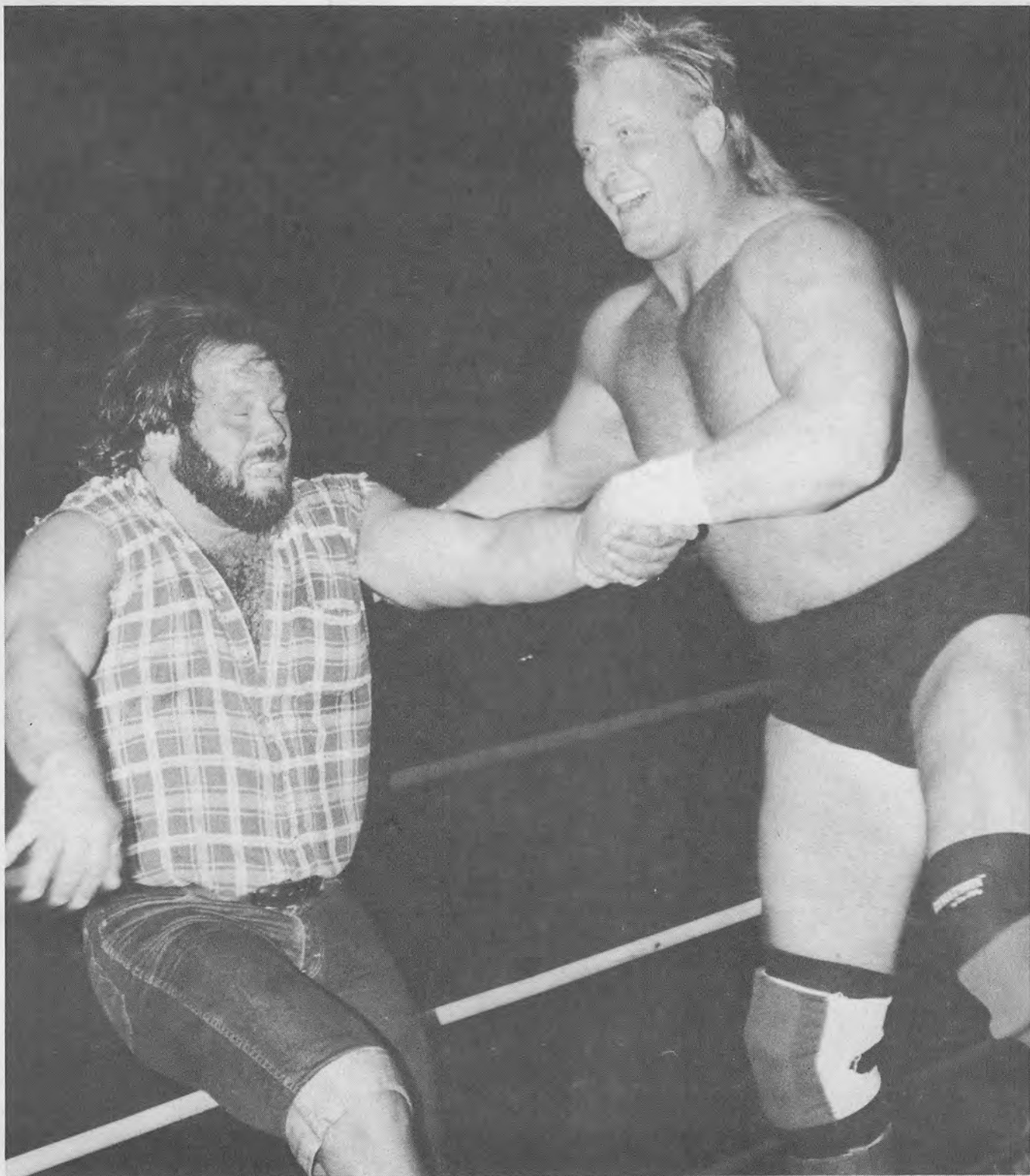


When Spivey returned from Japan late last year, he agreed to reform The Skyscrapers with Vicious at Starrcade '90. The massive pair destroyed Big Cat and Motor City Madman in just 61 seconds. After their victory, the team earned the biggest ovation of the night.

Still, Spivey wasn't happy. After the bout, he sat deep in thought as he slumped against his locker.

"What's eatin' you?" asked Vicious.

"Aw, nothing," said Spivey. "It's just that most of the fans out there were cheering for *you*, Sid. It wouldn't have mattered if you had had Bill Mulkey as your partner. Let's face it—you're a serious title contender. I'm



Spivey says Big Josh is merely a steppingstone to greater achievements, like Lex Luger's U.S. title. Sid Vicious helped inspire Spivey to his current success.

just a face in the crowd after seven years in this sport."

Vicious sat down next to his partner, grabbed Dan's arm, and looked directly into his eyes.

"Then *do* something about it," said Vicious sternly. "There's no reason a guy with your size and talent should go unnoticed. You wanna stop teaming

for a while? Cool. But don't blame me if you don't become a contender. Get off your self-absorbed butt and grab what you want. I *dare* you to do it."

At first Spivey was angered by Vicious' comments, but then he responded by high-fiving his partner. At that moment, he decided to become more aggressive than he had ever been

before.

It didn't take Spivey long to make his presence felt. On January 30 at Clash of the Champions XIV in Gainesville, Georgia, Spivey attacked Luger during a tag team match pitting Luger and Sting against then-WCW World tag team champions Doom. Spivey's interference cost Luger and

Despite The Skyscrapers' victory at Starrcade (right), Spivey wasn't satisfied. When Spivey teamed with Mike Rotundo in the WWF (bottom right), he was regarded only as a replacement for Barry Windham.

Sting the title, and Luger wasn't about to let it go unanswered.

"So that big guy wants a match against me?" asked Luger after the attack. "Well, he has it. Hell, he's just a tag team wrestler, anyway."

It's that last comment that *really* inspired Spivey.

"That's all I needed to hear," said Spivey moments before his Wrestle War bout with Luger. "Just wait and see what I do to that overrated musclehead. By the time this match is over, nobody's gonna call me a tag team wrestler again."

Spivey failed to capture the belt when Luger caught him with a reverse-sunset flip at the 12:55 mark. However, Spivey held the advantage through most of the bout with many outstanding maneuvers: tombstone piledrivers, belly-to-belly suplexes, DDTs. Spivey may have lost the match, but he earned the respect of Luger and every wrestler in WCW.

Now, after several big victories over ranked WCW stars, Spivey is established as a solid contender to Luger's U.S. title. Promoters in the U.S. and Japan clamor for his services. Spivey—and Spivey *alone*—is a hot commodity.

Recently, Spivey was lacing up a boot preparing for another match against Luger in Waldorf, Maryland. Just before he made his way to the ring, a sweat-covered Vicious strolled into the dressing room, fresh from a victory over Tommy Rich.

"Yo, Danny," said a young wrestler. "There's your partner."

"Not tonight, pal," said Spivey with a smile. "I'm on my own these days."

He's also not looking back. Dan Spivey has erased all the doubts that existed about him. Now that's he's a top contender, he won't be fully satisfied until he's a champion. The memory of The Skyscrapers gets a little fainter every day—and Spivey wouldn't have it any other way. □



HOTSEAT

RICK & SCOTT STEINER

**"WE'RE NOT HALF AS GOOD AS
WE'RE GOING TO BE!"**

THERE HAVE BEEN hundreds of fine tag teams to pass through this sport during the past 20 years. Some have boasted incredible power. Others favored a purely scientific attack. Many have developed exciting high-flying styles. But none ever put together the complete package of skills that belong to Rick and Scott Steiner.

And this outstanding brother tag team has the record to prove it! On August 24, 1990, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Steiners downed The Midnight Express to win the U.S. tag team title. Six months later in Montgomery, Alabama, Rick and Scott stunned The Freebirds to capture their second WCW World tag team title. The win made the Steiners the first team to hold the World and U.S. belts since the Express did it in 1988. They've since vacated the U.S. title, which is slated to be filled in an upcoming tournament.

However, the Steiners have now done that outstanding record one better. At the historic WCW/New Japan card at the Tokyo Dome on March 21, Rick and Scott defeated Hiro Hase and Kensuke Sasaki to win the coveted

IWGP tag team title. When the match began, few Japanese fans knew what to expect of the talents of the Michigan brothers. After Scott caught Sasaki with a "Frankensteiner" and pin, the fans knew they had just witnessed the sport's finest tandem.

Despite all the championships, both Steiners insist they're continually striving to improve their tag team skills. Associate Editor Bob Smith caught up with the popular team following a workout at an Atlanta health and fitness center.

“

**Look at our record. We've
destroyed Doom. We've
flattened The Freebirds.
We've eliminated all the
opposition.**

”

Q: It's not hard to see why you men have become the top tag team in the world. You guys really push each other hard during your workouts.

RICK STEINER:

Yeah, well, that's a big reason why we've had so many championships lately. We had to give up the U.S. belts, but we're still the WCW World champs. And we have the intelligent, wonderful, great prize, too.

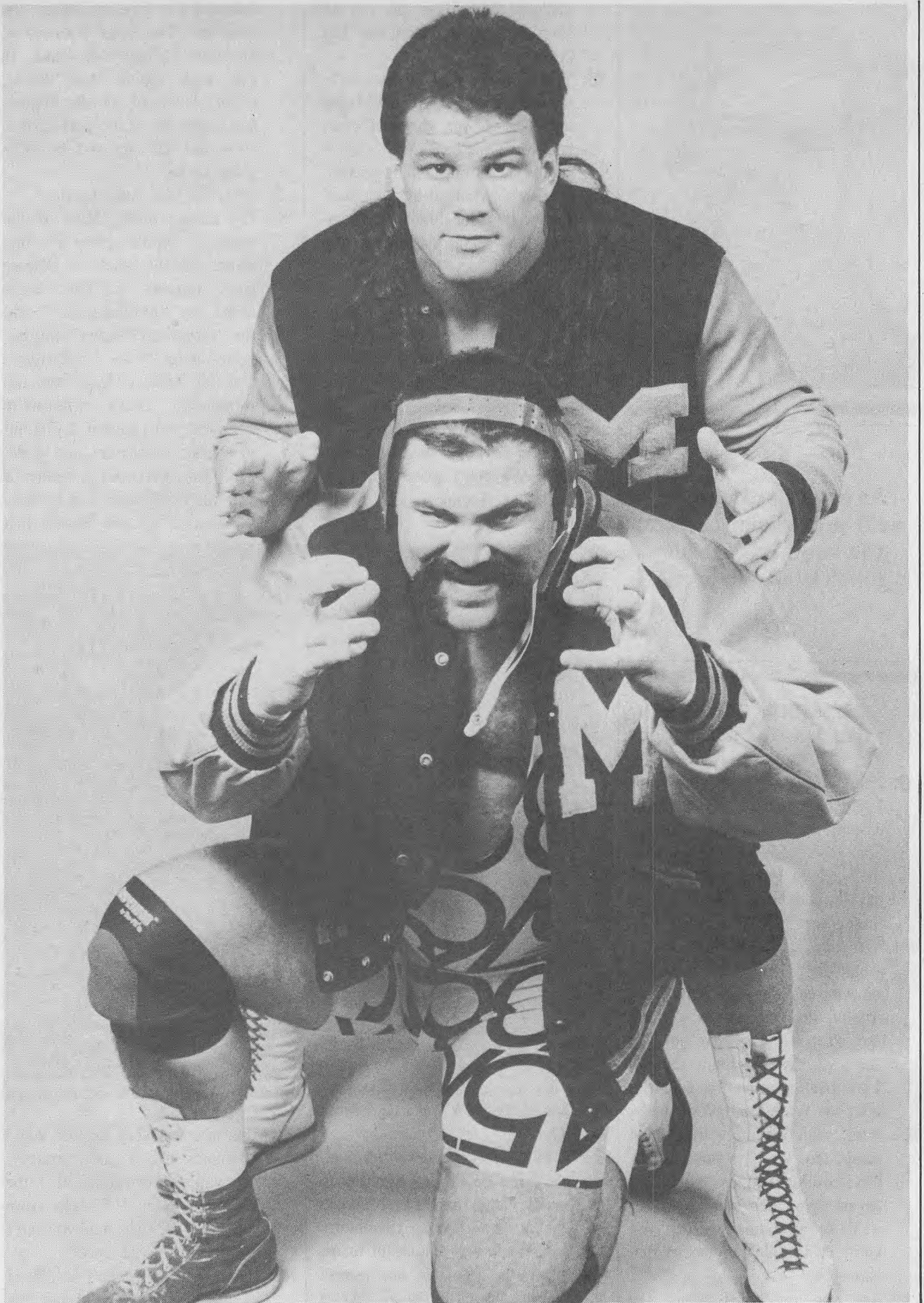
Q: What?

RS: Isn't that what IWGP stands for? Intelligent, wonderful, great prize?

SCOTT STEINER:

It stands for International Wrestling Grand Prix, Rick. But get something straight, Bob. Even though Rick gets a little confused with what IWGP means, that doesn't mean we don't consider ourselves very fortunate to have won that title. It's one of the biggest things that's ever happened to us.

RS: That's right. What a night that was! More than 64,000 screaming fans, and we beat a great team in





“

We gotta stay sharp, or we'll be ex-champs before you know it. We ain't gonna let that happen.

”

Sasaki and Hase. That win really proved how good we are, didn't it?

Q: I should say so. Your WCW and IWGP wins have made headlines all over the world. Many fans believe you've achieved the status as the greatest team anywhere. I have to admit that I'm one of those people.

SS: Well, we appreciate that. But it would be too easy for us to rest on our achievements right now. That's why you saw us working out so hard. We have to stay sharp, because we know that we have teams from two countries after the World and IWGP belts.

RS: Yeah. And it's more than great teams, too. We have some incredible individual wrestlers comin' after us. We gotta stay sharp, or we'll be ex-champs before you know it. We ain't gonna let that happen.

Q: Are you concerned about the

challenge that's been put out by Sting and U.S. champion Lex Luger?

SS: Yeah, that's really what we're talking about. Sting and Luger are two of our closest friends, and when we meet those guys it should be an outstanding scientific match. What talent! You have Luger, the four-time U.S. champion, and Sting, a former World titleholder. I can't think of more formidable opposition.

RS: That's true, brother. But I think that by agreeing to take those guys on, we're showing that we're fearless. Those guys may be the best singles wrestlers in the WCW, but we don't care. We'll take on anybody, anywhere, anytime. We don't care if they are made of Formica, like Scotty said.

flattened The Freebirds. Heck, we even beat The Road Warriors at Starrcade a couple years back. If you look around the WCW, we've eliminated all the opposition. And the scary part is that we're not half as good as we're going to be.

Q: What do you mean by that?

SS: It's simple, really. Most of the teams we wrestle against are fully aware of the kind of offense we're capable of. They know about my "Frankensteiner" and the "tilt-a-whirl" suplex, and they know about Rick's "Steinerline" and his bulldog from the top turnbuckle. That's why we're constantly working out, trying out new holds, maneuvers, and strategies. You can't stay a winner if you don't stay fresh, and we have some stuff up our sleeves that



Moves like Rick Steiner's high backdrop on Jim Garvin helped the Steiners defeat The Freebirds for the WCW World tag team title.

Q: What?

SS: I think Rick means "formidable." But he's right. Agreeing to wrestle Sting and Luger should qualify us as *fighting* champions. And that's very important to us.

RS: It sure is. Look at our record. We've destroyed Doom. We've

I'm sure will keep us that way.

Q: It sounds like a good strategy. Are you two frustrated that the WCW took the U.S. belts from you, since the rules state you can't hold both titles at once?

RS: Damn right! Why can't we defend all the titles as part of one big



Scott Steiner locks up Hiro Hase's legs, preventing him from tagging off to partner Kensuke Sasaki.

package like the triple-crown in Japan? I don't get it! We won those U.S. belts fair and square, and now some guy in a suit took 'em away from us. Nobody beat us for those belts!

SS: Calm down, Ricky. Actually, I can't get too upset about having the U.S. belts as the focus of a tournament. After all, when The Midnight Express won the World and U.S. titles three years ago, they weren't allowed to keep both championships. There's precedent for what the WCW did, so I can't be too bothered by it.

RS: President? What does George Bush have to do with things in the WCW? I want those belts!

Q: Looks like you two have quite a disagreement over that topic.

RS: Yeah, we disagree all the time. That's natural for brothers. But when we get in that ring, we're as tight as any two people in the world.

SS: I go along with that. I don't mean to use cliches, but he knows what I'm thinking, and vice versa. It's great to have a partner who's on your wavelength, and it's good to have one who's as athletically gifted as Rick.

RS: Hey, I have a fan!

Q: Scott's not your *only* fan, Rick. But I'd like to talk more about the challenge made by Sting and Luger. As good as you guys are, I'm having trouble picking a winner of this matchup. How do you plan on overcoming these outstanding competitors?

SS: I think a big key is to not do too much too fast. If we go into a match against Sting and Luger and unveil all our offensive weapons in the first few minutes, we're cooked. I think the big key is to subdue those guys. Tie 'em up with holds that limit the use of their power. And we can't let Sting off his feet for a minute. He's developed a flying splash from the top turnbuckle that could beat *anybody*, I don't care *who* it is. Add that to his "Stinger splash," and you have a guy capable of beating anyone—including us. And Luger, well, he's so strong that he's downright frightening.

Q: So let's make this a worst-case scenario. How would you guys react if Sting and Luger were able to beat you?

RS: No big deal. We'll just beat 'em right back! *(laughs)*

SS: Actually, Rick speaks the truth. If Luger and Sting can somehow



“

We've dominated the U.S. and Japan, but there are still other worlds to be conquered.

”

beat us, we'll just work twice as hard to get the belts back. Like we proved when Ron Simmons and Butch Reed fluked a win over us last year, we don't quit. Besides, this is all speculation. They haven't defeated us yet, and I have my doubts as to whether *anyone* can.

RS: We're getting bigger and stronger and more confident. We learn more good stuff about wrestling every day. And we both aren't even close to hitting our strides yet. Now, you tell me, Mr. Writer, who's a better team than me and Scotty?

Q: *(pauses)* No one I can think of.

RS: Darn tootin'!

SS: I have to agree. But that doesn't mean we're going to rest on our laurels. Who knows? There are other belts to be won out there, too. We've dominated the U.S. and Japan, but there are still other worlds to be conquered. □

By Andy Rodriguez

BRET HART AND Jim Neidhart are the embodiment of pure confidence.

Whether as rulebreakers or fan favorites, the outstanding duo has always given the impression that they'll win *every time* they step through the ropes. That attitude carried them to two WWF World tag team titles.

But after the Harts' second title reign was ended by The Nasty Boys at WrestleMania VII, that confidence was severely shaken.

Now the team is angry that what they consider an inferior team in Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags could win the belts from them. And they're especially ticked off that they allowed their former manager, Jimmy Hart, to dupe them.

In the match, Bret leveled Knobs with a "Hart attack" clothesline, but as Neidhart covered Knobs for the pin, referee Dave Hebner was busy escorting Bret out of the ring. That gave Hart the opportunity to throw his motorcycle helmet to Sags, who used it to smash Neidhart on the head. Oblivious to the rule infraction that had just occurred, Hebner returned to action and counted Knobs' pinfall on Neidhart.

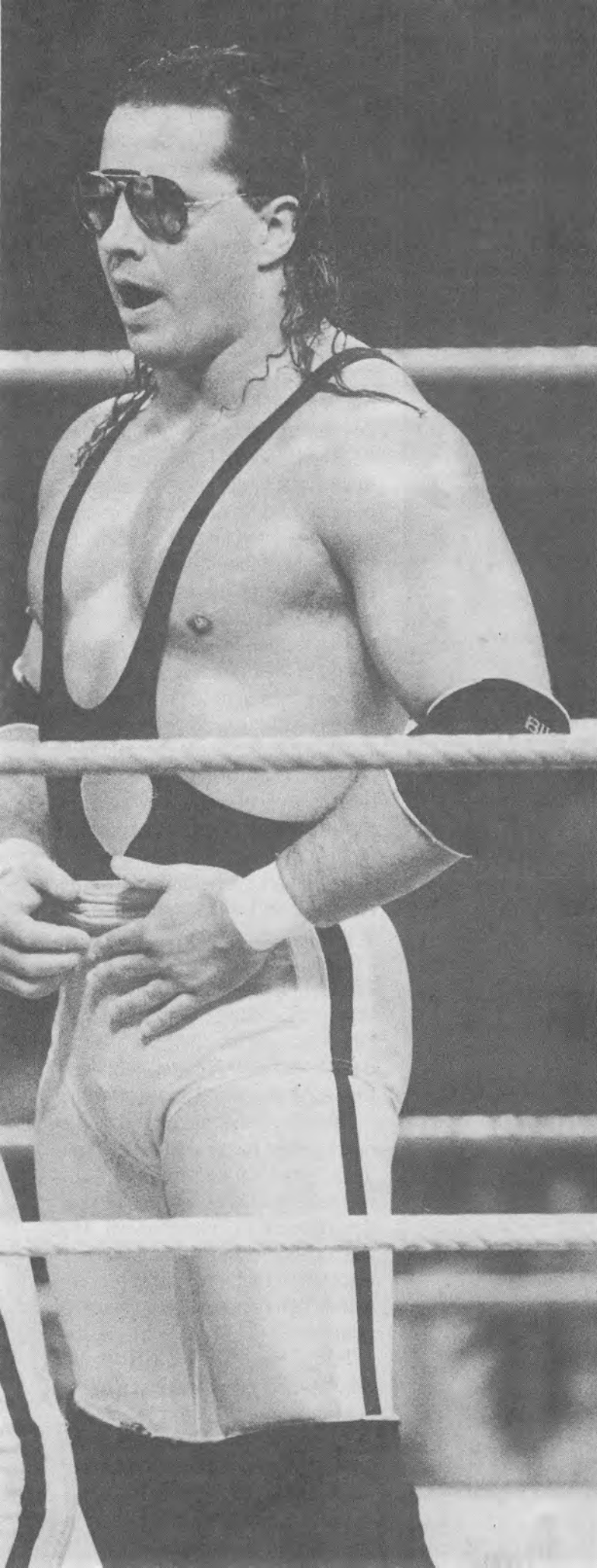
"If Jimmy had been banned from ringside, or put in a cage suspended above the ring, the Foundation would still be champs," said a friend of Bret's. "Bret and Jim *know* what Hart's all about, but they still couldn't stop him. Jimmy is an absolute master of deception. Hell, Bret and Jim benefited from his shenanigans for a long time."

Publicly, the Foundation may direct blame toward Jimmy Hart or the Nastys. However, a friend of Neidhart's has implied that "The Anvil" is upset with his partner because Neidhart actively sought to have Jimmy Hart booted off the ring for the big match.

"Jim was afraid that Jimmy might pull some kind of a crazy stunt, and that's exactly what he did when he threw Sags his helmet," said Neidhart's friend. "Jim wanted it clearly stated in the contract that Hart not be present at ringside."

"Bret, on the other hand, told Jim not to worry so much about Hart. Bret was convinced that whatever Hart might do, they'd be able to counteract. Boy, was he wrong!"





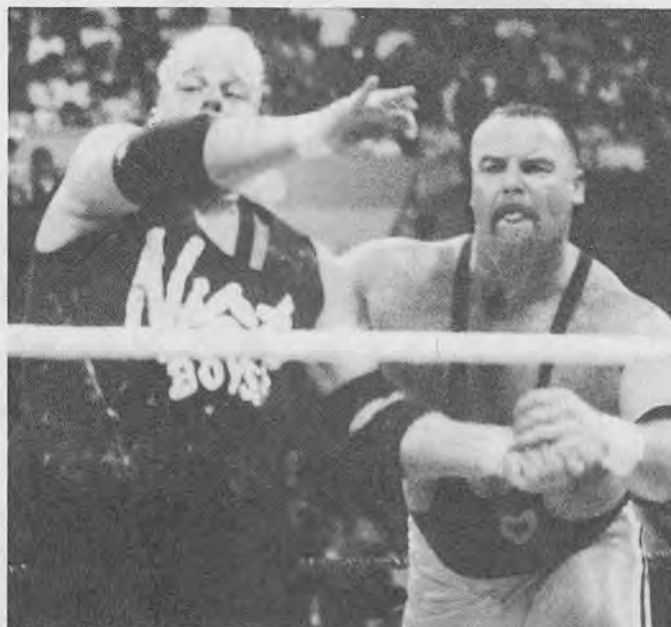
WAS THE NASTY BOYS' WIN A HART-BREAKING LOSS?



The Nasty Boys' tainted victory over The Hart Foundation at WrestleMania VII might have done more than cost the Harts the WWF World tag team title. It may have caused an irreparable split between Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart that could drastically alter the WWF tag team scene!



Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart clearly outclassed Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs (above, right, and below), but it was the man *outside* the ring, manager Jimmy Hart, who truly determined the outcome.



Bret's friend claims to know nothing about such an argument. But for whatever reason, the truth remains: There *is* friction between the teammates.

That is understandable. After all, they are no longer the World champions, while a team with less than half their talent is. Furthermore, they're not getting the rematches to which they believe they're entitled; that distinction has gone to The Legion of Doom.

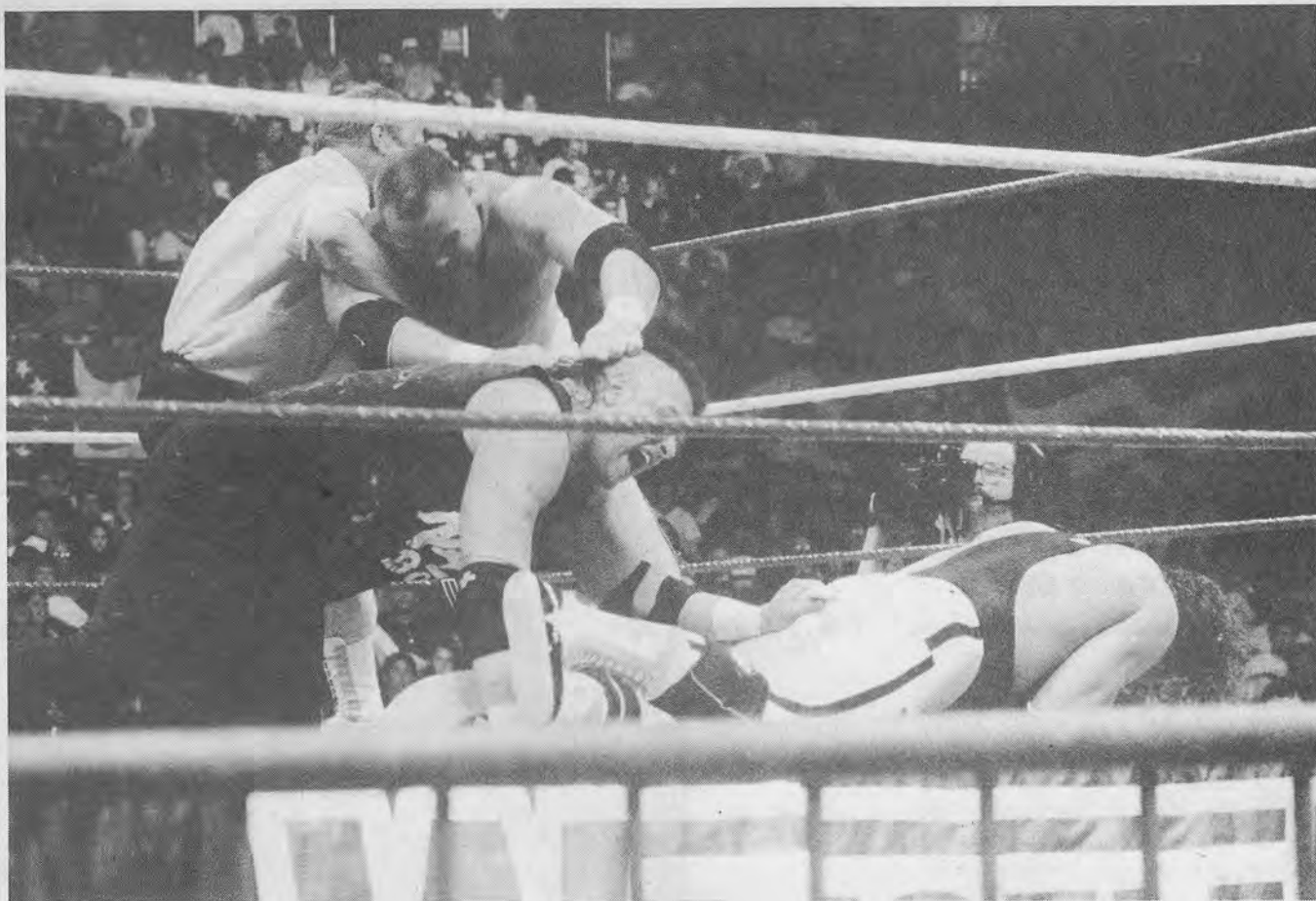
It's an unwritten rule in this sport that the former champions get the first opportunities at regaining the title. The Legion of Doom has a legitimate claim to title shots, to be sure, but Hart and Neidhart truly deserve to be the first in line. They've held the title twice before and have repeatedly proven themselves to be worthy title contenders.

This further development is sure to add to their discontent. Without a unifying pursuit of the tag team title, there is nothing to strive for *as a team*. When they were the champions, they could gloss over any differences simply because they were on top and they had to worry about defending the belts. But now, the bond that always held them together—the World tag team title—is out of their hands.

It would be a shame to see the Foundation break up. For five years, Hart and Neidhart have consistently ranked among the sport's top 10 duos, whether or not they happened to possess the World championship.

"Watching them grow and develop as a team has really been something," Hart's friend enthused. "It was especially heartening to see them give Jimmy Hart the boot. That was a benchmark for them as a team. After that, it was only a matter of time before they won the belts again."

That second reign, which began with a victory over Demolition at SummerSlam '90, was blemished in the aftermath of what appeared to be a title victory for The Rockers on October 30. WWF President Jack



Referee Dave Hebner couldn't stop Neidhart from attempting to save his partner from Sags' clutch (above).

Tunney later returned the championship to the Foundation on a technicality, but the damage to Hart and Neidhart's reputation was done.

"They constantly heard the fans' complaints in public—and the wrestlers' whispers in the locker rooms—that they really weren't the champions, The Rockers were," Bret's friend admitted. "The whole thing is ridiculous, because they're such a fine team, but there it was. They would never admit it, but it did hurt them to hear all that."

For the moment, Hart and Neidhart are still a team. Internal dissension aside, they appear to be willing to wait for a shot at the belts. If the Nastys turn back the Legion's challenge, the Harts will be ready.

And if Hawk and Animal win, they'll be ready for them, too.

"And not just in good guy vs. good guy matches, either," said Neidhart's friend. "If Bret and Jim smell a third title, you better believe



Angry because the Nastys beat them for the title, and disgusted that they're not receiving rematches, the Foundation is very upset with each other.

that adhering to the rulebook won't mean a thing to them. They've been bad before and they can be bad again. They don't need Jimmy Hart to help them in that department!"

But that all depends on the Harts staying together.

"I don't think they can wait for those matches much longer," another source close to the duo said. "If they don't get shots soon, they

may just split up and go after the singles belts. Remember, Bret has given [Intercontinental champion Curt] Hennig some scary moments. Jim, too, was a great singles competitor before he hooked up with Bret. They're both very impatient fellows. If they feel the situation is right, they'll make the move."

The Foundation's hairline fractures keep spreading. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE ON ONE



"If you're too stupid to be a part of history, I can't help you. But don't cop an attitude with me after all I've done for you."

—Ric Flair

THE COMMENTS WERE totally unexpected, as if a lightning bolt had descended from the heavens on a clear spring day. In February, The Four Horsemen were established as the most powerful force in the WCW. Any wrestler who came into the federation who wanted a shot at World champion Ric Flair quickly realized he had to go through Arn Anderson, Sid Vicious, and Barry Windham first.

Especially Windham, it seemed. When the Horsemen needed to come up with an insidious plot to try to help Sid Vicious win the WCW title from Sting last October, Windham masqueraded as the blond fan favorite. After Flair defeated Sting to win his seventh World championship, the "Nature Boy" constantly turned to Windham to bail him out of trouble during title defenses.

That's why Windham's early-March comments to broadcaster Tony Schiavone were so stunning. The seemingly perfect world of the Horsemen was revealed to be nothing more than a smokescreen after Windham uttered the following statement:

"The days of me looking out for everyone else's best interests are over. From now on, I'm lookin' out for number one, and that means yours truly. That also means that I'm going to be challenging for every title in this federation—and that includes the World title. I've been a nursemaid long enough."

After that shocking revelation, it was clear the end was imminent for the Horsemen. In mid-March, it was an-

nounced that the four members of the group were going their separate ways. Now, Windham is slowly making his way up the singles rankings and lusting for title shots at Flair, the same man he protected for most of the past two years.

How has Flair reacted to this development? Why did Windham so suddenly change his attitude? We wanted some answers, so we linked up these former teammates by telephone and let them square off . . . "One On One."

BARRY WINDHAM:

Hey, "Nature," how's tricks? I understand you've done a really great job keeping your World title from [Tatsumi] Fujinami, Sting, and even that big goon El

Gigante. That's what I always admired about you, Ric. You are definitely the most enterprising person I've ever met.

RIC FLAIR:

Coming from a wrestler of your caliber, that has to be taken as a compliment. And I've been real proud of the way you've been getting out there on your own and beating up all the punks around here. It looks like some of my greatness has rubbed off on you.

BW: Some of *your* greatness? It's just like you to try to take credit for things the other Horsemen have done, isn't it? That's a big reason I'm on my own right now, pal. I was a great wrestler long before I

N ONE



"You've been protected by me long enough. Now I want what you've got—and that's the belt around your waist."
—Barry Windham

ever hooked up with the Horsemen—but I don't have to remind you of that. You'll find out all about it when I work my way to the number-one contender's slot and get World title matches. Then, maybe some of *my* greatness will rub off on you.

RF: Cocky, aren't we, son? That's what I like to hear. You know, Barry, I don't resent what the other Horsemen have done. If you guys don't want to be part of the greatest organization in wrestling—both professionally and financially—then there's not a hell of a lot I can do about it. If you're too stupid to be a part of wrestling history, I can't help you. But don't cop an attitude

with me after all I've done for you.

BW: Why *shouldn't* I cop an attitude? For more than a year I did everything that you and the other Horsemen asked me to do. When you wanted me to put on some of that stupid greasepaint so I'd look like Sting, I gladly accepted the assignment. When you were on the verge of being pinned by Sting, I ran to the ring and beat the guy up. After all, that's what you were paying me to do, and I thought I did my job damn well.

RF: You were the *best*. When I needed you, you were always there.

BW: Damn right I was. But eventually, I realized what my role was, and I realized I was holding back my

own career. For too long, I was just a functionary. It didn't matter what my name was or what kind of wrestling skills I had. All that mattered was that I was in the right place at the right time to meet the needs of the other Horsemen. Well, that's not good enough for me anymore. *I* want the title belts. I haven't felt this hungry since I was a rookie.

RF: There's nothing wrong with being ambitious, Barry. But when you start to show yourself as an ingrate, then you start to get under my skin. If you hadn't been riding on my coattails for the past couple of years, you would've been nowhere. I gave you bonus payments that any other wrestler in the world would've grabbed in a minute. You were making more cash than most champions I know!

BW: Big deal! I've always made enough scratch, so don't come on like you're my savior or something. My mind's made up, Ric. You've been protected by me long enough. Now I want what you've got—and that's the belt around your waist.

RF: Good luck, pal! You know, there have been a lot of people who've wanted what I've got. From Harley Race to Dusty Rhodes and Lex Luger to El Gigante, they've brought 'em all on with trumpets and horns, but in the end it's always been me standing victorious in the center of the ring. If you work your way into contention, I know you'll be a game opponent. I know you'll probably give me the fight of my life. But I also know who'll be the winner, and that will be yours truly. Don't forget—I know you better than anybody else does.

BW: That's what you think. You have no idea what I'm capable of, Ric. I haven't been allowed to compete at full capacity because I've been busy doing run-ins. But I've been working out like never before, because I know you'll be my greatest challenge—a challenge I'm more than ready for.

RF: Well, I guess there's nothing left to say, is there? Be ready, Barry. Remember, you've got to beat the man to *be* the man.

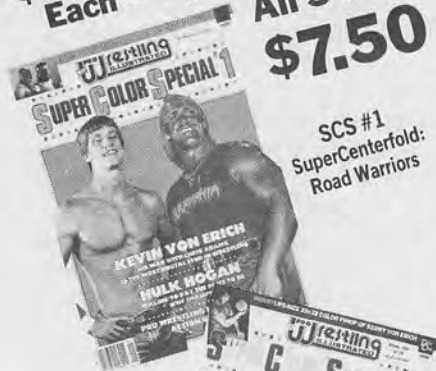
BW: Yeah, I've heard that one before. *Man*, have I heard that one before! □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

But I'm proud of Sting for standing up for himself after the belt was robbed from him. In the "Hotseat" interview in the May 1991 issue ("Sting: 'Don't Call Me A Crybaby, I Just Want Justice!'"), Sting showed he's every bit as determined to come back and win the title as he was when he came back from his terrible knee injury.

Sting was the WCW World champion before, and I know he will be again. He's too honorable—and too talented—to remain without a belt for long.

BETTY WALLACE
Bloomington, MN

FORGOTTEN FACT

I'm happy that I was featured in the "Where Are They Now?" section in the May 1991 issue. However, there's another fact about the "Ragin' Bull" that I think fans should know.

On December 5, 1990, I won a tournament final over big Cousin Luke to win the IWA title. Since then, I've been traveling around the country defending my championship, and I'm working hard to make this an impor-

tant belt. If anyone wants a chance to wrestle me, I'm not hard to find.

Add that to my assistant coaching duties for the Lincoln High School wrestling team, and I'm a pretty busy guy, wouldn't you agree?

MANNY FERNANDEZ
San Jose, CA

CARES ABOUT BLAIR

Thanks so much for the "Capsule Profile" and full-page pinup of B. Brian Blair in the May 1991 issue. From his first Florida title in 1982 to The Killer Bees in the WWF to his current status as a contender in the UWF, Brian has always been one of the most underrated wrestlers around. It was great to see him get the credit he deserves.

The UWF is having a tournament to determine its first TV champion, and I'm putting my money on Blair to win it all. After all, Brian's got Capt. Lou Albano behind him, and who knows more about titles than the Captain?

PAT KNOGH
Belcourt, NC
(Continued on page 54)



B. Brian Blair is one of the most underrated grapplers in the sport, says reader Pat Knogh, who picks Blair to win the newly created UWF TV title.

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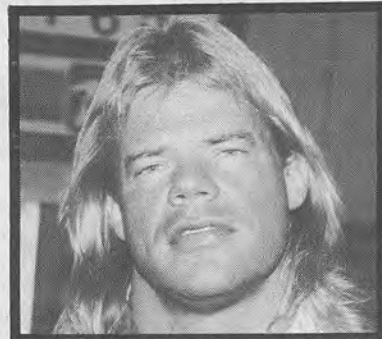
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

BROTHERS IN ARMS

I think it's very commendable of Rick and Scott Steiner that they'd be so willing to give each other a championship match if either beats WCW World champion Ric Flair, as it said in the May 1991 article ("The Steiners' Secret Pact: If One Wins The World Title, The Other Gets A Shot"). What



Rick Steiner is capable of beating Ric Flair for the WCW World title, in reader Charles Edler's view.

other men would go so far to prove their true intentions to the world?

Most people I know think Scott could easily beat Flair, but I think Rick has the better chance. His style is so out-of-control and unpredictable that he'd tie Flair up in knots. And Rick's "Steinerline" is so powerful that he'd knock Ric's bleached-blond head right off his shoulders.

No matter which Steiner defeated Flair, imagine this: Rick Steiner vs. Scott Steiner for the WCW World title. I don't think there's an arena in the world that's big enough to hold all the fans who'd love to see that match!

CHARLES EDLER

Hilmar, CA

STRIKING BACK

Bravo to Liz Hunter for her thought-provoking "On Assignment" in the May 1991 issue decrying The Ultimate Warrior's constant abuse of "Sensational" Sherri Martel.

Sure, Sherri is a talented athlete, but there's no way she should have to put up with the rough treatment she's received at the hands of the Warrior. If



The Ultimate Warrior has no right to hit Sensational Sherri for any reason, claims reader Sara Andrews.

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the WWF was any less of a circus, Warrior would be fined and suspended for what he's done.

Like Hunter said, the abuse of women should not be tolerated anywhere.

SARA ANDREWS
White Rock, NV

Bam! Hit her again, Warrior! Don't worry about people like Liz Hunter putting you down.

Sherri has it coming to her. If she doesn't want to get belted, then she shouldn't hit people herself. Case closed.

BOB SALEM
Midland, GA

A REAL TRIBUTE

I've never been so moved as I was when I read in your May 1991 issue about David Sammartino's touching tribute to his father ("David Sammar-



David Sammartino's promise to win his match against Ivan Koloff in his father's honor impressed reader Andy Anderson.

tino Pins Ivan Koloff: It Was An Anniversary Gift For My Dad!"). I'm sure Bruno Sammartino is as proud of his son as all of his fans are.

The biggest thing I find remarkable about David, however, is the incredible shape he's in. I remember watching him in the AWA in 1985. He was powerful, but he also had quite a bit of body fat. Now he's solid as a rock! David clearly has one of the best physiques in the sport.

I hope David keeps right on winning. He's been around for a while, but I'm sure his best days are ahead of him. What an athlete!

ANDY ANDERSON
Utica, NY

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



many years ago with a wrestler called The Canadian Wolfman. When the Wolfman did something unsuitable for TV—which was quite often—the WWF simply blanked out the screen. For sensationalistic purposes, “CENSORED” was often plastered across the picture.

Perhaps the time has come for the WWF to think before it broadcasts. It must realize who its audience consists of. And if it wants to continue along its current path, rate the shows PG-13: parental guidance suggested.

Talk about celebrations! The breakup of The Four Horsemen, as reported in the April 1 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* (April Fools? Let's hope not!) caused wide-scale partying in the WCW.

Simply stated, the Horsemen's enemies weren't too upset over the breakup.

“Now we can get down to busi-

ness without always worrying about four-on-one attacks,” Sting said. “It will be interesting to see how long Flair holds the title without his buddies' around.”

From this corner, however, it wouldn't be a great surprise if Flair actually did better *without* the Horsemen. Flair is still an outstanding wrestler, and if he was ever forced to concentrate on wrestling and winning fairly, I'm sure he'd do very well.

Now he's in this position.

“I'll take my chances with him now,” Lex Luger said. “The Horsemen idea was good for the four wrestlers involved, but bad for everyone else and damaging to the sport. Now we'll see what Flair, Windham, Anderson, and Vicious are really all about.”

Retired Horseman Tully Blanchard saw the breakup coming long ago.

“It never could have been the same after we broke up a few years ago,” Blanchard said.

Rosenbaum questions whether it was proper for the WWF to have broadcast the fireball attack on Hulk Hogan, engineered by Sgt. Slaughter and Gen. Adnan (above). Tully Blanchard feels the Horsemen were at their peak when he was a member (below).



"When Arn and I went to the WWF and then Windham left, it was all over for the Horsemen, as far as I was concerned. Ric tried to get it back together, but they had all kinds of problems. It's always a mistake to give something like this a second chance."

Anderson and Flair tried to hold on to the last remains of the Horsemen, unable to believe that the whole thing is dead, but it's clear that the Horsemen never did have a shot this time around. Flair's awarding of bonuses proves that the Horsemen didn't have their hearts in it. Once in it together for championship glory and personal camaraderie, the Horsemen were suddenly motivated by money.

Speaking of motivation by money, it's very clear that Sensational Sherri was guided merely by the almighty dollar when she decided to jump Randy Savage's ship for Ted DiBiase.

It's this simple: If you're working for an organization that's about to go under, you look elsewhere. Savage did a stupid thing by taking that retirement match with The Ultimate Warrior. He risked his career and Sherri's livelihood, and that's something he had no right to do.

Now that Savage and Elizabeth are back together, it goes without saying that WWF officials should be on the lookout for anybody that looks, talks, or even remotely smells like Savage.

He is obviously going to attempt a comeback, even though the rules of the match say he must retire. Of course, it wouldn't surprise me if the WWF just turned its back on the whole thing and let Savage return in some form.

Business is business. Money makes the world go round. The WWF with Savage is better off than the WWF without him. ☐

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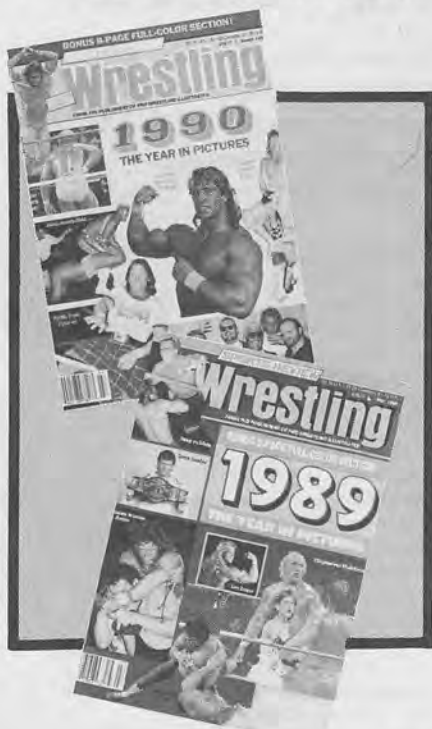
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THE INSIDER (Continued from page 14)



The Steiners' sensational triumph in Tokyo demonstrated to Japanese fans what Americans have known for years: Rick and Scott are a superb tandem.

and personalities, but rarely with their skills. As one grappler once admitted to me, "I go over there [Japan] geared up to put on a show. I feel like I'm a zoo exhibit, but that's okay. For the money they pay me, I'll juggle a ball on my nose and eat peanuts. I know they don't want to see me wrestle. They got plenty of homegrown talent that can wrestle the pants off anything American. They want to see teeth, they want blood, and I give it to 'em. And they love it."

More than 64,000 fans paid to see Rick and Scott Steiner recently in Tokyo. And while a few were amused by Rick's barking-dog bit, most were there to see the world's best tag team wrestle. They got their yen's worth. The Steiners defeated a pair of "homegrown" boys, Hiro Hase and Kensuke Sasaki, to capture the IWGP tag team title and confirm what Americans have known for years: This is one American product the Japanese can't improve on.

The same cannot be said for

fellow American, WCW impostor/champion Ric Flair. In the Flair-Tatsumi Fujinami title match, Fujinami pinned Flair—that much isn't in dispute—but was refused the belt because, according to WCW Senior Referee Nick Patrick, "Bill Alfonso [the in-ring ref who was accidentally knocked unconscious by Flair] would have disqualified Flair for crashing into him."

This, dear readers, I've never heard. How many thousands of times in the heat of battle have ref and wrestler collided? I've never once heard that this is just grounds for a disqualification. But Patrick isn't finished. "Bill also saw Fujinami toss Flair over the top rope," he said, "an immediate DQ, but was too dazed to make the call."

Which is why the presence of an outside referee, Mr. Hatori, was so important. Hatori administered the proper pin count and declared Fujinami the new champion. What could be fairer? If American federations used the two-ref system, it would eliminate

90 percent of all controversy—you would think. WCW officials have declared the match a no-contest; New Japan is declaring Fujinami the new champion.

The bottom line is that Flair left Japan with his belt and has agreed to a rematch, but only on American soil.

Talk about the Ugly American.

NEWS ITEM: RANDY SAVAGE RETIRES

Sure he does. By the time this issue hits the newsstands, one of two things will have happened: Savage will be wrestling in another federation or Elizabeth's lawyers will have discovered a loophole in his match contract, allowing the "Macho King" to remain active in the WWF.

There were reports of ringside fans weeping at the sight of Savage and Elizabeth reconciling. It is the quiet rite of passage that is the most profound; this hysterical reunion in front of millions of peo-

ple left me barfing into my box of popcorn. I used to respect both Elizabeth and Savage as much as anyone in the sport. Now, they too have been reduced to birds in a pet store window, billing and

cooing on request. Despite losing his retirement match to The Ultimate Warrior, Randy Savage will find a way to return, thanks to Elizabeth.

Like I said up front: I'm not in a very good mood this month. □



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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

By early 1988, all that had changed. Indeed, the June 1988 edition of this magazine printed a story entitled, "The Noble Savage: How Beauty Killed The Beast Within The 'Macho Man'." From that story:

"Savage is not the same wrestler he was 18 months ago," says one ring watchbird. "Elizabeth's housebroken him. He's been tamed. He's too preoccupied with what Elizabeth wants. He should remember that Elizabeth wants him to be a champion. She's no fool. She didn't join up so he could wrestle The Honky Tonk Man every week, and Savage's failure to win the I-C belt from that no-talent champion only proves that he's been weakened by her. Savage is allowing precious time and skills to erode, and he has only himself—and his obsession with Elizabeth—to blame."

At the time that story was written, Savage was still a few months away from winning the WWF World title at WrestleMania IV. It was a glorious victory, capped by the kind of scene we saw in Los Angeles: Elizabeth riding high above the ring on the "Macho King's" shoulder.

Not long after that, Elizabeth was the focal point of Savage's inherent jealousy. Remember Savage confronting Hulk Hogan with the charge that the "Hulkster" lusted after Elizabeth? That was the beginning of the Megapower meltdown, the destruction of the relationship between Hogan and Savage, and the resumption of the antagonistic relationship between Savage and Elizabeth.

To her credit, Elizabeth fled the relationship soon after Savage lost the World title to Hogan at WrestleMania V. Some say Savage



Savage's alliance with Hulk Hogan collapsed after he began accusing Hogan of "lusting after" Elizabeth. Hunter wonders whether Savage has really changed all that much.

dumped her; I like to believe she had the brains to know better. Sensational Sherri entered the picture. She's a skunk, but somehow she seemed to belong. When she stood next to Savage, the picture looked precisely right in the way that Savage-Elizabeth never did.

A year later, at WrestleMania VI, Elizabeth made a brief comeback: She helped Dusty Rhodes and Sapphire defeat Savage and Sherri. But more than helping Rhodes and Sapphire win, she was helping to humiliate a man who had given her so much heartbreak and pain in the past. It must have felt good.

Another year later, she wasn't feeling as good. Watching Savage being beaten in the ring by Sherri, Elizabeth ran from her seat in the stands and chased Sherri away.

Why? I don't know. I've had friends who've returned to worse men than Savage time and time again, and I can't figure it out.

Look around you, readers. You probably know at least one woman who sticks with her man, even though you know and she knows and everybody around her knows that, in the long run, it's the wrong thing to do. Why do they do it? People claim to have answers, but nobody really does. It's one of the mysteries of the universe.

In the long run, I think the Savage-Elizabeth reunion can only end in yet another tragedy. Yes, Savage is very kind to her now, but it's been a long time since they've been together. Mark my words: Before 1992 is out, Savage will be trying to manhandle Elizabeth the same way that Ultimate Warrior's been manhandling Sherri from coast to coast.

I only hope that her obsession with Savage isn't as strong as Savage's obsession with her, that when the time comes, she'll still have the brains to get out of the relationship. □

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August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orions.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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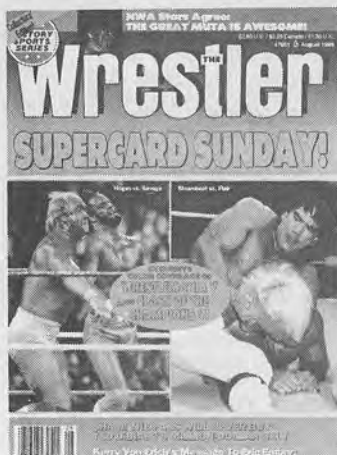
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The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.

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VIRGIL

(Continued from page 28)

answers he needed: DiBiase wasn't worthy of his presence, DiBiase is an evil man, DiBiase cannot get by on his own.

"I am a better man, and I know it," Virgil seemed to be saying after his victory by countout. "He is not worthy of me. I will go on to greater things."

He has already.

By simply extorting himself from DiBiase's heinous control, Virgil has made an important statement. He has declared that he will no longer sell his soul for a buck, that he will no longer serve others, that it is time for Virgil to be served.

The money is no longer there, but does it really matter? Virgil now has something far more important: self-respect.

"From all estimates, DiBiase was paying Virgil a salary well into six figures," said one highly placed WWF source. "He was probably one of the richest bodyguards in



After all Piper did for him, Virgil was there to help his friend after the brutal attack.

the world. As a wrestler, Virgil has had to start at the bottom, and he'll have to work his way up. It will take a long time for his match purses to equal the salary he was making as DiBiase's bodyguard. Virgil simply had to make a decision, though, and I'm sure he sleeps a lot better at night for the one he made."

DiBiase is suddenly in a precarious decision. Although he immediately hired Sensational Sherri as his manager, DiBiase now finds himself without personal protection. Sherri is evil and devious, but she is not as big and strong as Virgil. DiBiase is now more vulnerable than he's been in several years.

"I don't think there's a man in the world that would work for DiBiase, having seen what he did to Virgil," the source continued. "DiBiase has a terrible reputation. Even a few hundred thousand dollars a year isn't enough to put up with DiBiase's crap."

That's what Virgil decided. Through years of silence, he served DiBiase diligently. He became one of the most hated men in the federation. He was despised for selling himself.

Now look! Virgil received a standing ovation at WrestleMania! The crowd was on his side every step of the way! It must have been a strange but wonderful feeling for Virgil, to be wanted, to know that he's finally doing the right thing.

There will be days when Virgil misses the money, but that's okay. With the proper dedication, Virgil can rise in the WWF ranks. There will be days when Virgil misses the trips, the yachts, the swimming pools, and the gorgeous women.

That's okay, too. The world is his. He is a man with self-respect and dignity. He has what all the money in the world can't buy. And he no longer has DiBiase breathing down his neck.

Who's the real "Million-Dollar Man" now? ☐

THE BEST OF WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

VOLUME ONE

Six Girl Tag Team Match

Two out of three fall match

Olympia, Bambi, Ashley Ryan vs. Baby Face Nellie, O'Sheena and Linda Dallas.

Indian Strap Match

Kat Laroux vs. The Lock

U>S> Ladies Championship Match

Candi Divine vs. Peggy Patterson

Brandy Mae vs. Peggy Lee Leather

Dynamite Interview

Misty Blue challenges Madusa

Miceli

World Championship Match

Heidi Lee Morgan vs. Madusa Miceli

60 minutes

VOLUME TWO

NEW !!!

Five Matches Starring:

Candi Divine vs. Joyce Grable

Bambi vs. Debbie Combs with Cora Combs, manager

Heidi Lee Morgan vs. Peggy Lee Leather

Jean Kirkland, Ramona Isbell vs.

Susan Green and Katy Kincaid

Susan Sexton vs. O'Sheena

"Bunkhouse Battle Royal"

For the first time ever, over 25 professional lady wrestlers in the ring at the same time!

VOLUME THREE

Debbie Combs and Medusa Miceli

vs. Candi Divine and Brandy Mae

Debbie Combs confronts Misty Blue

about her so-called title!

Kat Laroux vs. Susan Green

Handicap Match: O'Sheena and

Katy Kincaid vs. Susan Green

Heidi Lee Morgan vs. Baby Face

Nellie

Tag Team Championship Match:

Olympia and Bambi vs. Peggy

Leather and Donna Day

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NEW !!!

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
(4) WWF World champion | 4— STING
(5) No. 2 contender: WCW title | 8— KERRY VON ERICH
(-) No. 1 contender: I-C title | 12— JERRY LAWLER
(-) USWA champion |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
(1) WCW World champion | 5— TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(-) No. 3 contender WCW title | 9— ARN ANDERSON
(-) WCW TV champion | 13— STEVE DOLL
(10) PNW champion |
| 3— LEX LUGER
(2) WCW U.S. champion | 6— CURT HENNIG
(6) WWF I-C champion | 10— SGT. SLAUGHTER
(3) No. 3 contender: WWF title | 14— EL GIGANTE
(11) No. 4 contender: WCW title |
| | 7— THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(9) No. 2 contender: WWF title | 11— SID VICIOUS
(12) No. 1 contender: U.S. title | 15— BOBBY EATON
(-) No. 1 contender: WCW TV title |

WCW

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(-) 231, Tokyo, Japan | 8— BOBBY EATON
(10) 233, Huntsville, AL | 12— LARRY ZBYSZKO
(12) 248, Pittsburgh, PA |
| 2— LEX LUGER
(2) 268, Chicago, IL | 5— EL GIGANTE
(4) 435, Argentina | 9— TERRY TAYLOR
(6) 225, Vero Beach, FL | 13— SCOTT STEINER
(-) 235, Bay City, MI |
| 3— STING
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA | 6— SID VICIOUS
(5) 318, West Memphis, AR | 10— NIKITA KOLOFF
(-) 275, Moscow, Russia | 14— DAN SPIVEY
(7) 300, Tampa, FL |
| | 7— ARN ANDERSON
(8) 249, Minneapolis, MN | 11— RON SIMMONS
(-) 260, Perry, GA | 15— BARRY WINDHAM
(-) 263, Sweetwater, TX |

WWF

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
(3) 302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— KERRY VON ERICH
(7) 260, Denton, TX | 8— RANDY SAVAGE
(-) 245, Sarasota, FL | 12— THE MOUNTIE
(14) 232, Montreal, Quebec |
| 2— CURT HENNIG
(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN | 5— SGT. SLAUGHTER
(1) 310, Parris Island, SC | 9— JAKE ROBERTS
(8) 246, Stone Mountain, GA | 13— TED DIBIASE
(-) 247, Omaha, NB |
| 3— THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(5) 280, Queens, NY | 6— BIG BOSSMAN
(9) 310, Cobb County, GA | 10— DAVEY BOY SMITH
(10) 245, Leeds, England | 14— RODDY PIPER
(4) 231, Glasgow, Scotland |
| | 7— THE UNDERTAKER
(6) 320, Dallas, TX | 11— GREG VALENTINE
(13) 243, Seattle, WA | 15— BERZERKER
(-) 316, Bozeman, MT |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 4— STING
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 8— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: unrated | 12— VIRGIL
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular |
| 2— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 5— SCOTT STEINER
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 9— RICK STEINER
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 13— JEFF JARRETT
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular |
| 3— THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 6— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: unrated | 10— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 14— RON SIMMONS
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— EL GIGANTE
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 11— RODDY PIPER
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 15— BRIAN BLAIR
Last month: unrated |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 4— SID VICIOUS
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 8— ERIC EMBRY
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated | 12— BUTCH REED
Last month: unrated |
| 2— SGT. SLAUGHTER
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 5— BARRY WINDHAM
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated | 9— CACTUS JACK
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated | 13— TOM PRICHARD
Last month: unrated |
| 3— THE UNDERTAKER
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 6— CURT HENNIG
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 10— TED DIBIASE
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated | 14— THE MOUNTIE
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— ARN ANDERSON
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 11— TERRY TAYLOR
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated | 15— LARRY ZBYSZKO
Last month: unrated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1— RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(2) WCW World tag team champions | 6— THE HART FOUNDATION
(1) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title | 11— POWER & GLORY
(8) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title |
| 2— THE NASTY BOYS
(4) WWF World tag team champions | 7— THE TEXAS HANGMEN
(-) USWA tag team champions | 12— ARN ANDERSON & BARRY WINDHAM
(7) No. 2 contenders: WCW tag title |
| 3— THE LEGION OF DOOM
(5) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title | 8— THE ROCKERS
(10) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title | 13— TOM PRICHARD & ERIC EMBRY
(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title |
| 4— THE FREEBIRDS
(3) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title | 9— LARRY OLIVER & MIKE WINNER
(-) No. 1 contenders: PNW tag title | 14— THE MADISON BROTHERS
(-) IWCCW tag team champions |
| 5— THE YOUNG PISTOLS
(9) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title | 10— RICK MORTON & TOMMY RICH
(-) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag title | 15— THE ORIENT EXPRESS
(13) No. 5 contenders: WWF tag title |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended April 5, 1991

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHNNY ACE & KENTA KOBASHI
(September 8, 1990; tournament final over Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers; Fukui, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY
(December 7, 1990; tournament final over Stan Hansen & Dan Spivey; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KYOKO INOUE
(October 2, 1990; for vacant title over Takako Inoue; Yamagata, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO
(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

* **ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUZUKA MINAMI**
(March 17, 1991; from Minami Toyoda; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Aja Kong & Bison Kimura)

AWA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT (INACTIVE)
(most recently held by Larry Zbyszko)

AWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUCK ZUMHOFF (INACTIVE)
(August 12, 1990; tournament final over Jonnie Stewart; Rochester, MN)

AWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TROOPER & D.J. PETERSON (INACTIVE)
(August 11, 1990; from The Destruction Crew; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE (INACTIVE)
(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

CANADIAN NATIONAL WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RON RITCHIE
(December 14, 1990; from Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER
(December 22, 1990; tournament final over Rambo; Bremen, Germany)

GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: STEVE LAWLER
(December 2, 1990; from Nick Busick; Carrollton, GA)

ICW CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(July 24, 1990; from Tony Atlas; Middletown, NY)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ
(December 5, 1990; tournament final over Cousin Luke; Washington Township, NJ)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SONNY BEACH & THE TERMINATOR
(August 27, 1990; from The Motor City Madmen; Atlantic City, NJ)

IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE
(October 5, 1990; tournament final over Cactus Jack; Girard, OH)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

* **IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MADISON BROTHERS**
(March 9, 1991; from The Equalizers; Staten Island, NY)

IWCCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH
(by officials' decision)

* **IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
(March 4, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Hiroshima, Japan)

* **IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
(March 21, 1991; from Hiroshi Hase & Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGER
(November 2, 1990; from The Pegasus Kid; Tokyo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X
(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI
(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL
(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Ricky Santana & Brad Anderson)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Scotty the Body)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY
(December 7, 1990; tournament final over Stan Hansen & Dan Spivey; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: TERMINATOR RIGGS
(February 11, 1991; from The Charlie Norris; Fridley, MN)

PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN
(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND
(August 2, 1990; from Lou Perez; Tampa, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON SLINKER & SGT. ROCK
(November 22, 1990; from Hurricane Walker & Powerhouse Parker; Tampa, FL)

SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VINCE TORELLI
(February 7, 1991; tournament final over Chris Chavis; Nassau, Bahamas)

SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON
(December 29, 1990; from The Pit Bulldogs; Greenville, SC)

TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR
(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: AL PEREZ
(February 21, 1991; from Matt Borne; Dallas, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHAUN SIMPSON
(February 10, 1991; by forfeit from Eric Embry; Dallas, TX)

TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE
(September 15, 1990; tournament final over Rockin' Rebel; Philadelphia, PA)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Rick & Scott Steiner)

* **USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(March 11, 1991; from Terry Funk; Memphis, TN)

* **USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD**
(March 15, 1991; from Jeff Jarrett; Dallas, TX)

* **USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TEXAS HANGMEN**
(March 26, 1991; from Jeff Jarrett & Jerry Lawler; Louisville, KY)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY
(February 15, 1991; from Bill Dundee; Dallas, TX)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK
(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)

* **UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAZO DE ORO & BRAZO DE PLATA**
(March 10, 1991; tournament final over Gran Hamada & Perro Aguayo; Tokyo, Japan)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER
(December 16, 1990; from Stan Hansen; St. Louis, MO)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(January 11, 1991; from Sting; East Rutherford, NJ)

* **WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
(March 9, 1991; from The Freebirds; Montgomery, AL)

* **WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: SCOTT HALL**
(March 3, 1991; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR.**
(March 16, 1991; from Galan Mendoza & Rick Valentine; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MR. POGO
(February 9, 1991; from Hurricane Castillo Jr.; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

* **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & EL BRONCO I**
(March 2, 1991; from The Texas Hangmen; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON
(February 2, 1991; for held-up title over Greg Valentine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MONSTER RIPPER**
(March 16, 1991; from Sasha; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG
(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)

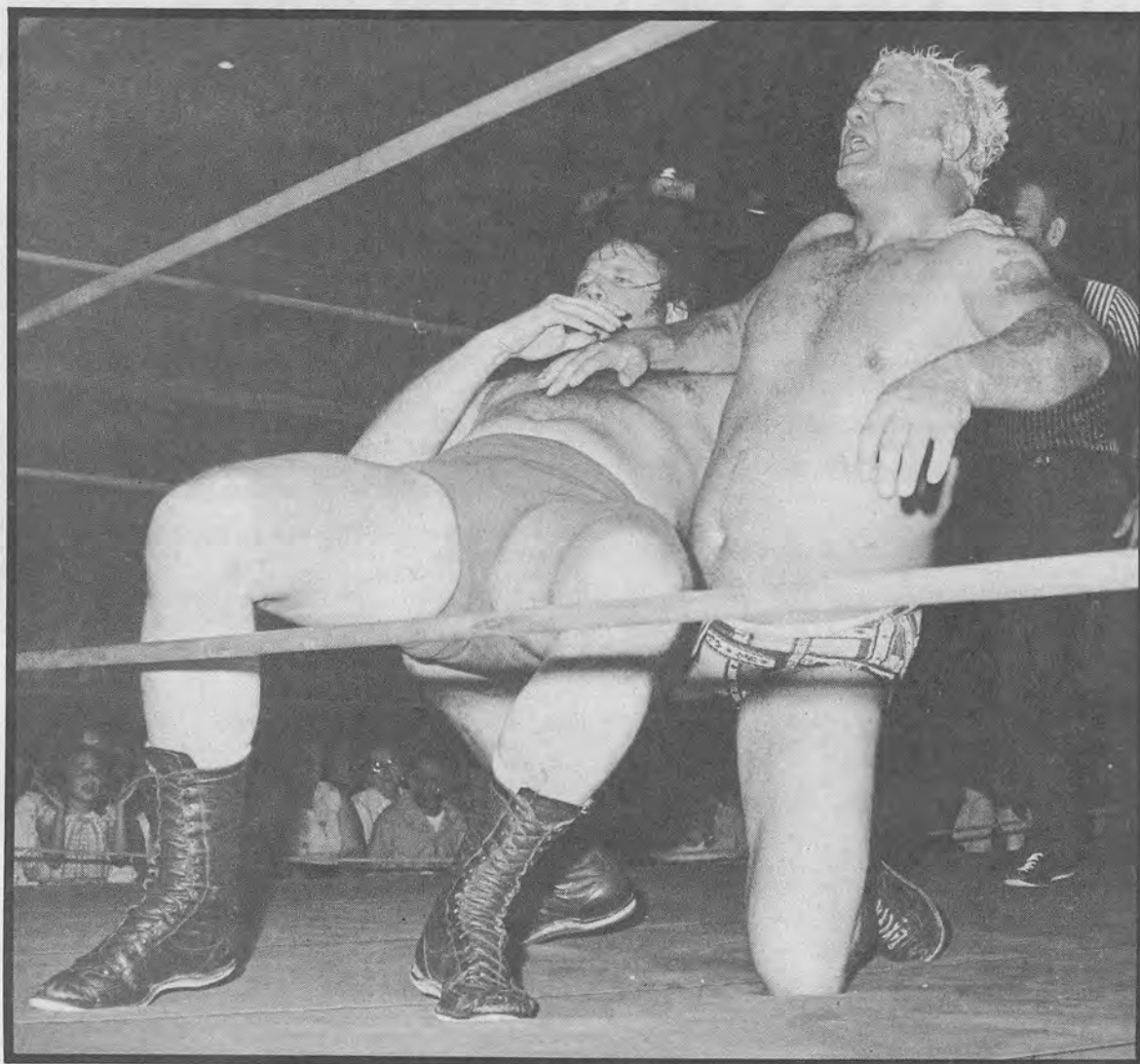
* **WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**
(March 24, 1991; from Sgt. Slaughter; Los Angeles, CA)

* **WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS**
(March 24, 1991; from Bret Hart & Jim Neidhart; Los Angeles, CA)

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